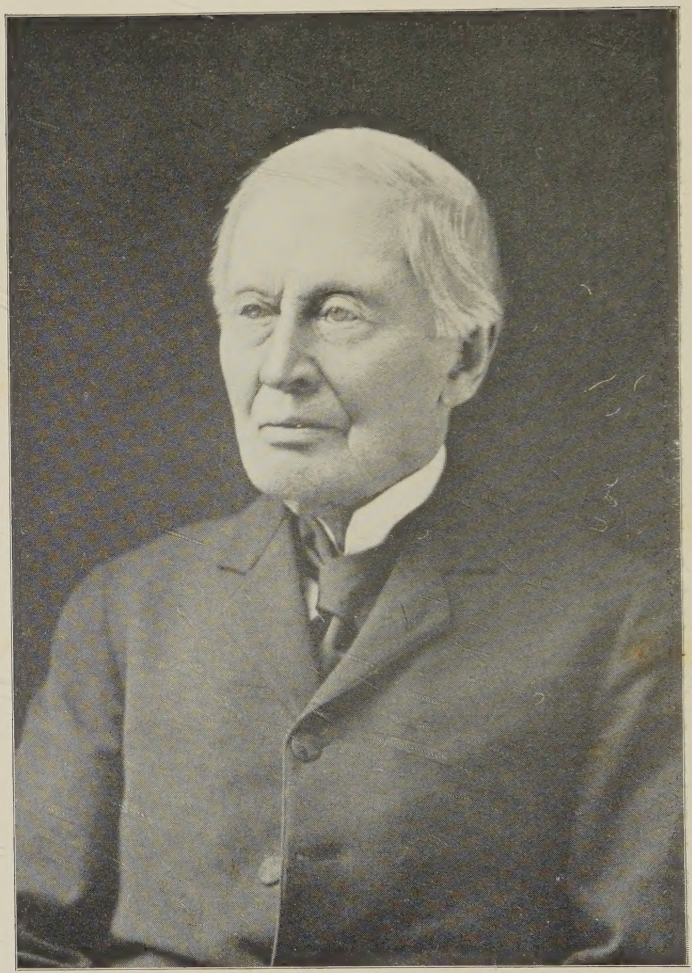
THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS
OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY.

MAR 1 6 1992

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025

https://archive.org/details/firsthundredyear0000reve_c3f1



Hon. David Cross.

President, 1899–

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY

1812–1912

REV. EDWIN J. AIKEN
Secretary, 1898–1912

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY
BV
2370
.N4
A4
1912

THE RUMFORD PRESS
CONCORD, N. H.
1912

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
One Hundred Years of Bible Work in New Hampshire	1
Constitution of 1812	2
Organization of the Bible Society	4
Act of Incorporation, 1812	5
Fiftieth Anniversary	23
Seventy-fifth Anniversary	38
Constitution of 1897	45
One Hundredth Annual Meeting	51
Financial Report	54
Officers of 1812 and 1912	56
Officers from 1812 to 1912	57
Life Members 1912	61
Corporate Members 1912	63
County Bible Societies	63
Ladies' Bible Associations	66
Colportage Work	68
A Look Forward	70
Biographical Sketches	71
The Printing of the Scriptures in New Hampshire	76
Editions of the Bible	77
Editions of the New Testament from 1818 to 1865	78

APPENDIX.

The Story of Mary Jones, and the Organization of the British and Foreign Bible Society	81
The Organization and Work of the American Bible Society	82
Organization of other Bible Societies	84
Organization of the New England Bible Societies	85
The Circulation of the Scriptures	85
Translation of the Scriptures	86
Facts About the Bible	86

PORTRAITS.

Hon. David Cross, LL.D. Frontispiece.	
Hon. John Langdon, LL.D.	4
Rev. Osman C. Baker, D.D.	9
Rev. Ebenezer E. Cummings, D.D.	19
Hon. Edward Spalding, M.D.	23

PAGE.

Hon. John Kimball 29
Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D.D. 35
Dea. William G. Brown 39
Hon. Isaac W. Smith, LL.D. 45
Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn 51
Rev. Elisha Adams, D.D. 57
Rev. Edwin J. Aiken 62

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Meeting House, Concord, N. H., 1812. 66
New Hampshire Bible Society Depository,
6 School St., Concord, N. H. 70
Full Size Title Page of the New Testament,
Printed by Samuel Bragg, Jr., Dover, N. H., 1803 76
Full Size Title Page of the New Testament,
Printed by Simeon Ide, New Ipswich, N. H. 1815 78
Monument Erected in Memory of the
Rev. Thomas Charles, Bala, Wales 81
American Bible Society Work in China 83
American Bible Society Work in Siam 84

PREFACE.

No date in the history of New Hampshire shines with clearer lustre than the 3rd day of June 1812, and yet the birth of the New Hampshire Bible Society, when it occurred, seems to have attracted but little public attention, if any at all. The writer has searched the papers published during the month of June 1812 without finding a word of record or of welcome. This Society was organized one hundred years ago and exists today simply to circulate one book, and a centenary history of the Society and of its work means much.

For the facts and figures herein given we are dependent upon the written records and published reports of the Society. But as one traces the story of the Society's work for a hundred years and is made to understand something of the giant obstacles before it, and of the courage and zeal of those who undertook it and have continued it through these many years, he must look upward, as well as outward and onward with faith, and humbly and thankfully confess that "This is the Lord's doings, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

The object of the Society and its work is "That they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." And should this compiling of facts inspire the reader to a more earnest Christian service and to a more zealous study of the Word, it will repay the compiler many fold.

Edwin J. Aiken.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BIBLE WORK IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

In the printed report of the New Hampshire Home Missionary Society at the beginning of Bible work in New Hampshire, date 1803, we find the following: "Is not the object important, and worthy of fupport?—The Gofpel is the greateft of all bleffings. This alone contains a fovereign, ample remedy for perifhing, immortal fouls. We enjoy its benign bleffings. We, who, in our anceftors, afar off from God, ftrangers to the covenant of promife, having no hope, and without God in the world; we, through the benevolence, charity and zeal of others, from other nations, in ages paft, do enjoy that bleffed Book, which brings life and immortality to light. But there are others, innumerable, who do not enjoy it; but are perifhing for lack of vifion. And multitudes of our own nation and kindred, in our infant fettlements, are in a ftate but little fuperior to theirs." We find that with the close of the year 1805 "our miffionaries have diftributed (and have on hand for diftribution) 26 Bibles and 15 Testaments."

The first proposition to form a Bible Society independent of the New Hampshire Home Missionary Society was made at a gathering of the General Association of Congregational Ministers at Exeter, September 19, 1810. The following September at a meeting of the same body at Dunbarton, it was decided to be expedient that such a Society should be formed. A committee was appointed to prepare an address to the Christians of all denominations inviting them to unite in such an organization, and also to draw up a constitution and call the first meeting.

The following notice was printed in the New Hampshire Patriot, under date of May 26, 1812.

BIBLE SOCIETY.

All persons who wish to be members of the New Hampshire Bible Society are desired to meet at the Meeting House in this town, on the 3rd day of June next, at 10 o'clock A. M. when the Constitution of the Society is to be adopted, and officers chosen for the year ensuing.

The meeting was held in the First Congregational Church, at Concord.

The Constitution reported by the committee was as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY.

1. The Society shall be called the New Hampshire Bible Society. The sole object of the Society is to promote the more extensive distribution of the Holy Bible. This object is to be invariably pursued, by procuring and distributing, gratuitously, among the destitute and needy, or selling at reduced prices, according to the discretion of the Board of Directors, Bibles or Testaments, in the English language, of the present received version, without note or comment; and by aiding, in case the funds of the Society shall admit, in translating and printing the Holy Scriptures, in other languages, for charitable distribution.

2. Every person who advances forty dollars, shall be a member of the Society for life; and every person, who gives his name to the Secretary, and annually pays either two or three dollars, shall be a member, until he signify to some officer of the Society his desire to withdraw. So long as persons pay their annual subscription, a member who pays two dollars shall be entitled to one Bible annually; and every other member shall be entitled to two Bibles annually; provided that these Bibles are applied for at the time of the annual payment, or within a year afterwards.

3. The officers of the Society shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and four Directors, to be chosen annually by ballot. Of these officers, two of the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, and two of the Directors, only, shall be Ministers of the Gospel.

4. The above named officers shall be a Board of Directors; six of whom shall be a quorum for transacting business; but a less number may adjourn from time to time, as shall be necessary. This Board shall meet immediately after their appointment, and afterwards upon their own adjournment; and also when required by the President or senior Vice-President. They shall manage all the concerns of the Society, and exert themselves to promote its object. For this purpose, it shall appoint agents, in different places, for procuring subscriptions and donations, and for distributing Bibles; and shall adopt whatever rules and measures they may judge expedient, which are compatible with this Con-

stitution. At every annual meeting, they shall exhibit to the Secretary a written report of their proceedings, together with such information and suggestions as they may think deserving the consideration of the Society, and calculated to animate their exertions in distributing the Holy Bible.

5. The Society shall annually appoint two persons, to be Auditors of the Treasurer's accounts, and report to the Society.

6. In case, the office of Secretary or Treasurer, or Auditor, shall become vacant, the Board of Directors shall appoint some person to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting. But no member of the Board shall ever be appointed an Auditor.

7. The annual meeting of the Society shall be on the Wednesday following the third Tuesday in September, at 5 o'clock, P. M. in the same place where the New Hampshire Missionary Society shall hold their annual meeting; unless the Society shall determine to meet at some other time and place. Notice of the time and place of such meeting shall be given by the Secretary in such manner as the Society shall direct.

8. All sums which may be given, beside those which constitute membership, will be gratefully received, and devoted to the sole object of the Society.

9. The President, or in his absence the senior Vice-President, or in their absence the senior Director present, shall preside in all meetings of the Society and of the Board. The Secretary shall record their proceedings, and correspond in their name. He shall also keep an account of all monies which shall be paid to the Treasurer, and of all orders drawn on him. The Treasurer shall give receipts for all the money which he receives, and shall make no disbursements without an order drawn on him, by direction of the Board.

10. Any article in this Constitution, except the first, may be altered or amended, at any annual meeting, by vote of two thirds of the members present.

11. Members of other Bible Societies, and Ministers of the Gospel not belonging to this state, who may be present at an annual meeting, shall be invited to set with the Society, as corresponding members.

This Constitution was adopted, and the following officers were elected:

His Excellency, Gov. John Langdon, LL.D., *President.*
Rev. Seth Payson, D.D., Rindge, *Vice-President.*
Rev. John H. Church, Pelham, *Secretary.*
Jonathan Wilkins, Esq., Concord, *Treasurer.*

Daniel Emerson, Hollis,
Rev. John Smith, Salem,
Maj. John Mills, Dunbarton,
Rev. Reed Paige, Hancock,
} *Directors.*

Rev. Abraham Burnham,
Dea. Abiel Rolfe, Concord,
} *Auditors.*

One hundred and sixty persons united with the Society during the first four months. The formation of a Bible Society in our state was an event in its history. It shows the influence of the Bible upon the early men of the state, for New Hampshire could not have furnished a more distinguished company than the thirty-five clergymen and one hundred and twenty-five laymen whose names appear on the list of founders.

The Society had its origin in a time of war. As a nation, we were then engaged in the second conflict with Great Britain. They were dark days and there was in the minds of many good men a hesitation in regard to the formation of a Bible Society. They asked, "Can it be carried on and supported in New Hampshire?" The seaports of the country were then blockaded, and Bibles printed in England and on the Continent of Europe could not be obtained. But the Society succeeded in purchasing during the first three months of its existence, four hundred and fifty copies of the Bible of West and Blake in Boston for immediate distribution. The record says, "These Bibles were purchased for sixty-four cents. The same could have been bought in Hartford, Ct. for 62 1-2 cents, but on account of the risk of transporting them by water in the time of war, it was thought best to purchase at Boston, especially when it was found that we could take the Bibles at the bindery in Concord, N. H."

Twenty agents were appointed in different parts of the state for the sale of the Bibles and to solicit contributions, and $508.77 was received during the first four months of work.

The first annual meeting of the Society was held in connection with the annual meeting of the General Association of Congregational Churches of New Hampshire at Hollis, September 16,

Hon. John Langdon.
President, 1812–1814.

1812, and its first report, which was called an annual report, covers less than four months. At this meeting the officers of the Society elected in June were re-elected, and Rev. John Smith and Rev. John H. Church were appointed a committee to prepare a petition to the Legislature for an act of incorporation; and the Hon. Thomas W. Thompson and Rev. Reed Paige were appointed agents of the Society to present the petition at the November session.

The following petition was presented:

"The petition of John Langdon and others praying that they may be incorporated into a body politic by the name of the New Hampshire Bible Society.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Convened, the undersigners, having formed themselves into a society for the purpose of gratuitously distributing the Holy Scriptures among the destitute and needy, humbly pray, that they and their associates may be incorporated into a body politic, by the name of the New Hampshire Bible Society, with all the powers and privileges incident to incorporations of a similar nature; and your *petitions* as in duty bound will humbly and thankfully acknowledge their obligations to your honorable body.

John Langdon	John H. Church
John T. Gilman	Moses Whiting
Wm. F. Rowland	William Hardy, 2nd
Walter Harris	John Marsh
Samuel Harris	Reed Page
Daniel Hardy	Asa McFarland
John Kelley	Tho. W. Thompson

John Smith"

The following act of incorporation was obtained:

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

"In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

An Act, to incorporate the New Hampshire Bible Society.

Whereas, The Hon. John Langdon, John T. Gilman, and others, have petitioned the General Court, praying that they

and their associates may be incorporated for the purpose of circulating more extensively the Holy Scriptures, by distributing them gratuitously amongst the poor and needy, and disposing of them at reduced prices; and the prayer thereof appearing reasonable:

Therefore,

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, That John Langdon, John T. Gilman, Seth Payson, Reed Paige, and John H. Church, and their associates and successors, be, and they are hereby, incorporated and made a body politic, by the name of the New Hampshire Bible Society: and by that name may sue and prosecute, be sued and prosecuted, to final judgment and execution; and shall be, and hereby are, vested with all the privileges and powers which by law are incident to corporations of a similar nature.

2. And be it further enacted, That Seth Payson and John H. Church, or either of them, may call a meeting of said Society, to be holden at any suitable time and place, by advertising the same in one of the Concord newspapers at least fourteen days before the time of holding said meeting; and the members of the Society, by a majority present, or represented at said meeting, shall choose a Clerk or Secretary, who shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of the duties of his office; and shall agree on a method of calling future meetings; and at the same or any subsequent meeting may elect such officers, and make and establish such by-laws, as to them shall appear to be expedient to carry into execution the benevolent design of the Society; and the same by-laws cause to be enacted, and annex suitable penalties to the breach thereof; provided said rules and by-laws be not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this state.

3. And be it further enacted, That the said Society be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to hold personal estate, not exceeding five thousand dollars."

This Society had its origin when few similar societies existed in the world. Only five Bible Societies existed in the whole Eastern Hemisphere—one in Great Britain, three on the Continent of Europe and one in India. Only four years had passed since the formation of the first Bible Society in America, and there were few societies existing in the United States. There

were but three State Bible Societies in New England—the Connecticut Bible Society, the Massachusetts Bible Society, and the Bible Society of Maine.

The second annual meeting of the Society was held in the Congregational Church at Plymouth, September 21, 1813. Hon. John Langdon was re-elected President, and Rev. Seth Payson, D.D., Ebenezer Adams and Rev. Nathan Parker, D.D., were elected Vice-Presidents. The Secretary reported that a die for stamping Bibles had been presented by Mr. Jacob Perkins, of Newburyport, Mass., and a vote of thanks was extended to the donor. Also, a gift of one hundred dollars was received from the Hon. John Langdon. The membership had increased to 334, and the reports as to Bible distribution were as follows:

Rev. Mr. Morrison reported that he had given "twelve to people unable to get Bibles, but very desirous of them"; Rev. Mr. Rowland reported that he had distributed twenty-four, mostly in Exeter and Stratham; Rev. Mr. Burnham had given eight to persons in divers places; Rev. Timothy Clark had distributed eight on missionary ground in the North-eastern part of the state: the Secretary had given nine to poor persons in Pelham and Nottingham-West; and Rev. Mr. Rolfe had given away nine in the vicinity of Groton. Eighteen hundred copies of the Bible were purchased this year for $768.00, and sixteen hundred copies were distributed in the state.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors it was voted: "That Five Hundred Dollars be appropriated, as soon as the funds of the Society shall admit, to aid the distribution of the Scriptures in Asia, or in some other place, as Divine Providence shall appear to direct."

A Bible Society was established in St. Petersburg, in Russia during the year.

At the third annual meeting held in Hanover on September 21, 1814, the Society received a letter from its President enclosing one hundred dollars and declining to be a candidate for re-election. The following vote was passed: "That the Society express to the Hon. John Langdon the grateful sense which the Society entertains of the services he has rendered the cause of the Redeemer, as President of this Society, and by his generous

donations in aid of its funds." The Hon. Timothy Farrar, of New Ipswich, was elected President, and George Hough, of Concord, Treasurer.

The following item of interest is found in the report for this year:

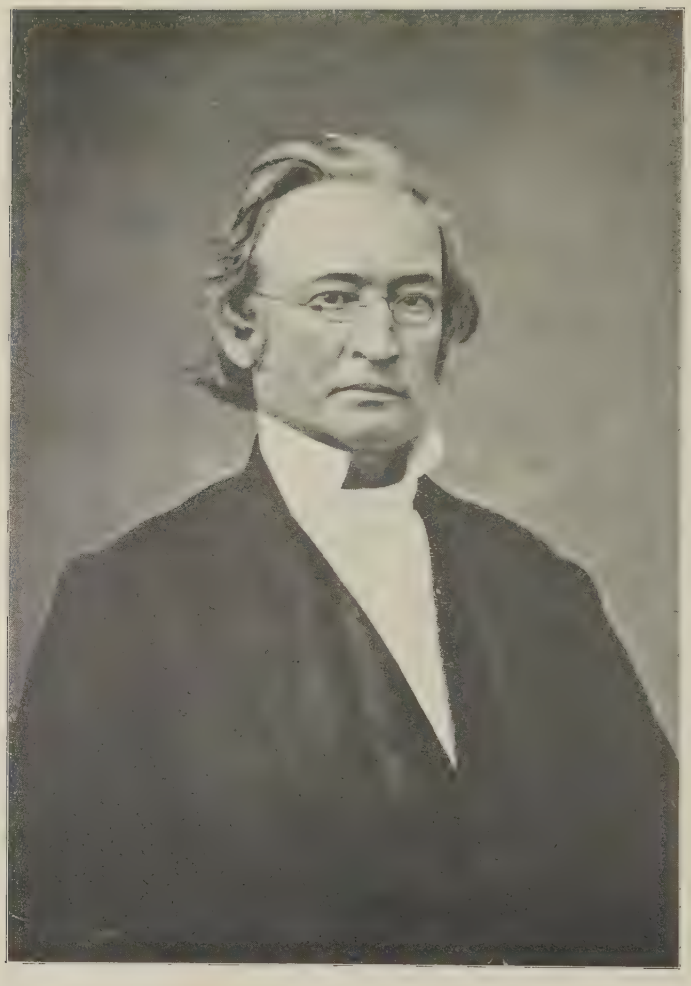
"The Bible Society of Massachusetts distributed last year 78 minion Bibles, 743 common Bibles, and 226 Testaments. They have also refunded to the British and Foreign Bible Society the sum of £157:2:9 sterling, being the amount of an invoice of Bibles and Testaments shipped by said Society, for charitable distribution in North America, but taken by one of our privateers and sold at auction. They have more recently purchased 900 Bibles and 300 Testaments, which had been likewise shipped by said Society for distribution at the Cape of Good Hope, but taken by a privateer and sent into Bath, in the district of Maine. By the liberality of the captors, these were purchased on very low terms, and will be forwarded by the Massachusetts Society to the place of their original destination."

"It was voted to remit the sum of Five Hundred Dollars to the Bible Society of Philadelphia to aid in printing an edition of fifty thousand copies of the French New Testament for charitable distribution among the Catholics in Louisiana. Also Two Hundred Dollars were sent to the New York Bible Society to aid in printing six thousand copies of the Bible in French for work in the southwest of our country."

In the four years from the formation of the Society, with a membership of 710, 4,600 copies of the Bible and 1,500 copies of the New Testament were placed in the families of the state. The Society being unable to make the needful supply in all parts of the state, the Connecticut Bible Society generously forwarded five hundred copies of the Bible, with the request that two hundred copies be sent to the "district of Maine for charitable distribution."

The following was received from the Philadelphia Bible Society, "Resolved, That the thanks of the managers be presented to the Bible Society of New Hampshire for Five Hundred Dollars liberally granted in aid of printing the French New Testament."

The fourth annual meeting was held at Keene, September 20, 1815, and Rev. Fred Paige was elected Vice-President.



Rev. Osman C. Baker, D.D.

Director, 1852–1855.
Vice-President, 1855–1872.

In acknowledging a donation from this Society to the Connecticut Reserve Bible Society for work at New Orleans, the following action was taken: "This seasonable and generous donation ($200) from the New Hampshire Bible Society fills our hearts with joy, and merits a return of our most cordial thanks." Also this year one hundred Bibles were sent to Huron and two hundred and fifty copies to Michigan Territory.

The President of this Society received a letter from Hon. Elias Boudinot, President of the Bible Society of New Jersey, making a proposal for the formation of a National Bible Society in the United States, and gave notice of a general meeting to be held in the city of New York, on the 8th day of May 1816. There were then one hundred and thirty local societies.

This meeting was made up of sixty men of different religious denominations, and from widely different parts of the country. The constitution which was adopted stated that "the sole object of the Society is to encourage the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment"; and the American Bible Society, of New York, a national interdenominational Bible Society, was organized.

Of this meeting the Rev. Dr. Lyman Beecher, in his recollections of it years after, says "it was a meeting of selected hearts, and talents and influence, and of sublime humility, wisdom and prayer. We felt that the place where we stood was Holy ground —that God was there—and although the delegates were from various religious denominations, yet they were of one heart and of one mind as to the grand object of the convention. Such was the harmony of the proceedings with which they adopted the constitution of a National Society, as to inspire the livliest emotions of gratitude, and elicit tears of joy from many eyes."

A powerful appeal to the "Christians of America" in behalf of the American Bible Society was issued from the press. The rich poured their offerings into its treasury; the poor gave freely and with self-sacrificing liberality; the churches made generous donations, and in four months' time the National Society received more money than the British and Foreign Bible Society received during the first two years of its existence. A large number of state and local Bible Societies became its auxiliaries.

During this year the few Bible Societies existing in the country were so embarrassed that it was with difficulty that Bibles and

Testaments could be obtained. Such was the want in the state that Simeon Ide, a young man twenty-two years of age of New Ispwich, printed an edition of the New Testament. He went to Boston with a team, bought a hand printing press and a font of type, brought them home and set up his press in his father's blacksmith shop. He succeeded in getting paper, and he and his sister, twelve years of age, set up the type and struck off an edition of five thousand New Testaments of four hundred pages in six months. That the edition might be as free from errors as possible, he engaged Rev. Seth Payson, D.D., of Rindge, to read the proof sheets, and as there was only type enough to set twelve pages at a time, he walked to Payson's home in Rindge twice a week to read proof with him.

Mr. Ide inserted on the title page of the New Testament, "Carefully examined and corrected by Rev. S. Payson, D.D." Some of the Doctor's friends having got the impression that he had been making a new translation of the Testament, it gave him no little uneasiness. To relieve him of this, Mr. Ide printed the words "First New Ipswich Edition," and pasted the strip over the obnoxious line (see page 78). The edition bore the imprint of 1815. In 1817 Mr. Ide removed from New Ipswich and subsequently settled in Claremont where he continued the use of his press for the printing of the Scriptures until 1865. The New Hampshire Bible Society purchased one thousand copies of the first edition in 1815 and several thousand copies of the editions of 1861 and 1865. George Hough, treasurer of the Bible Society, also printed an edition of the New Testament during 1815.

At the fifth annual meeting held at Concord, September 18, 1816, Rev. John Kelley was elected a Vice-President, and the following resolution was adopted: "That the sum of Five Hundred Dollars be remitted by the Treasurer of the New Hampshire Bible Society to the Treasurer of the American Bible Society, one half of said sum to be considered as a donation to that Institution, the other moiety to be repaid in Bibles.

"And that, as the state of our resources may from time to time permit, we will pour of our gold and of our silver into this treasury of our Lord; and that we shall rejoice to be enrolled

among the number of those societies who may annually contribute in aid of that noble Institution."

The Board of Directors voted, That the Prudential Committee direct the Treasurer to pay the money which had been appropriated for foreign translation of the Scriptures (Five Hundred Dollars) as they shall judge most advantageous in conformity with the wishes of the donors, and to pay such farther sums to the Treasurer of the American Bible Society as the state of our funds may admit.

State and local Bible Societies and Missionary Societies of every denomination, at home and in foreign lands, were then dependent upon the American Bible Society for their supply of the Scriptures so necessary to their work.

The New Hampshire Bible Society soon began to purchase Bibles of the American Bible Society and to make liberal donations to it. A Bible Society was formed at Dartmouth College, in 1815—in a time of great religious interest, when the Holy Spirit was specially present, and the importance of the Word of God was deeply felt. A delegate was appointed by it to attend the formation of the American Bible Society. He failed to do so, but contributions for several years were made to that Institution, and afterward to the New Hampshire Bible Society, of which it become an auxiliary.

The whole number of Bibles and Testaments purchased by the New Hampshire Bible Society to date was 6,200 copies.

This year $400 was appropriated for Bible distribution in the South-western portions of the United States. One half of this sum was sent to the Louisiana Bible Society and the other half to the Connecticut Reserve Bible Society. Also seven hundred copies of the Bible were purchased in Philadelphia for distribution in other remote parts of our country.

At the sixth annual meeting held at Exeter, September 17, 1817, the Hon. Timothy Farrar declined re-election, and it was voted that the thanks of the Society be presented to him "for the interest he has taken in this object, and the aid which he had afforded in promoting the design of this Society."

The Hon. Robert Means, of Amherst, was elected President, —the other officers remaining the same. The membership of the Society was 793.

During this year a donation of five hundred dollars was sent to the American Bible Society, and one hundred twenty-two dollars to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, "for publishing the Scriptures in the languages of the heathen."

The seventh annual meeting was held at Dover, September 16, 1818. Prof. Ebenezer Adams, of Dartmouth College, was elected President, and Dea. Amos Tappan, a Vice-President. During the six years of the Society's existence, $7,746.32 was raised and expended in Bible distribution in this state, Maine, Ohio, Michigan, Louisiana and Canada.

The eighth annual meeting was held at Hanover, September 22, 1819. During this year special attention was given to the supply of the state prison and jails of the state with Bibles, and also of Forts Constitution and McClary, in the vicinity of the Harbor at Portsmouth, and provisions were made for the supply of seamen at that port.

The Society this year received a legacy of one thousand dollars from Mrs. Thankful Shepard, of Alstead. The records of the Board of Directors for the year 1817 show that a legacy was expected and the following action was taken:

Voted, "That the legacy, when received, be funded." The next year, 1818, this vote was reconsidered and annulled. The Treasurer's report for the year 1819 shows that the legacy when received was expended,—part as a donation to the American Bible Society and part in payment for Bibles. The following inscription appears on the head stone at Mrs. Shepard's grave in Alstead:

Erected
to the memory of
Mrs. Thankful Shepard,
who died June 7, A. D. 1817.
Age 71 years.
Relict of the late
Hon. Amos Shepard, Esq.

Not merely in honor of the deceased, but as an example to survivers, it is here recorded that in her last will she gave one thousand dollars to the New Hampshire Bible Society, and the same sum to the Congregational Church in Alstead, of which she was a member.

Quit the ills of earth and rise,
Sister Spirit, to the skies;
Here behold thy Saviour's face,
Laud his love and sing his praise,
And see on earth thy bounty spread the truth,
Counsel the aged and enlighten the youth,
And as successive crowds of souls appear,
To meet and thank their Benefactor there.
If God should bless my mite
To raise one soul to Heaven,
To Him be all the gratitude
And glory given.

The ninth annual meeting was held at Portsmouth, September 20, 1820. Hon. David L. Morrill and Joseph Haven were elected Vice-Presidents. This meeting was saddened by the notice of the death of the Hon. John Langdon, the first President of the Society, and also the death of Rev. Seth Payson, D.D., the first Vice-President.

Gov. John Langdon held the office of President of the Society until he declined re-election, and was the Society's largest benefactor. "Knowing," as the report of the year states, "by happy experience the preciousness of the Gospel, he was desirous that his fellowmen should enjoy the same blessing." He was also Vice-President of the American Bible Society and a liberal supporter of its work.

Rev. Dr. Payson continued in office to the time of his death and was an efficient promoter of the interests of the Society.

It was voted that the annual meeting be held during the first week of September, provided that the General Association and Missionary Society concur in the change. It was also voted "to request the Trustees of the New Hampshire Missionary Society to let their missionaries distribute Bibles and Testaments for this Society."

Three young men from the seminary at Andover, Mass. were employed in canvass work and the collection of funds. Also Dea. Nathaniel Cross, from Portland, Me., was employed in the eastern and northern parts of the state.

The tenth annual meeting was held at New Ipswich, September 29, 1821. Hon. Edmund Parker was elected Vice-President and Nathaniel Abbott, of Concord, Treasurer.

During the year of 1822 the Society received a donation of five hundred dollars from Samuel Hutchinson, of Alstead. The amount of donations received during the year was $732.00, seven hundred dollars of which was sent as a donation to the American Bible Society.

The twelfth annual meeting was held at Acworth, September 3, 1823. Rev. Daniel Dana, D.D., was elected a Vice-President.

The thirteenth annual meeting was held at Londonderry, September 8, 1824. Rev. Nathan Lord, D.D., pastor of the Congregational Church at Amherst, N. H., and afterward President of Dartmouth College, was elected Secretary. In an address at the meeting, he urged the organization of Ladies' Bible Associations, and the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Society hears with peculiar pleasure of the formation and utility of Bible Associations, expecially among females, and earnestly hopes that they may be formed in every town in New Hampshire, and be the means of promoting the circulation of the Bible extensively throughout the state, throughout the country and throughout the world.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient to take some more efficient measures than have been taken to increase the funds of this Society; and that the Prudential Committee of this Board be requested by agent or otherwise, to open a subscription in each town in this state, to form as extensively as may be Ladies' Auxiliary Bible Associations, and to adopt such other measures as in their discretion shall judge suitable to secure the above object.

This resolution was immediately carried into effect and two years later there were fifty-one female Bible Associations in the state auxiliary to the New Hampshire Bible Society. In 1828, there were 138 societies, and 122 local agents working in the state. County Bible Societies were also organized, in Cheshire, Strafford, Grafton and Sullivan Counties. The towns of New Hampshire were divided into fifty-one districts and to each district was assigned a clergyman who was to visit the churches in the interest of Bible work, to assemble and encourage Ladies'

Associations, to revive languished ones, to organize new ones, and to ascertain whether the destitute had in all cases been searched out and supplied.

At the fifteenth annual meeting held at Durham, September 26, 1826, Rev. Charles Burroughs was elected Vice-President.

The sixteenth annual meeting was held at Rindge, September 5, 1827, and we find the following record. "Paid post riders and stage drivers for distributing Bibles and Testaments, $9.12."

At the seventeenth annual meeting held at Salisbury, September 3, 1828, Rev. Daniel Lancaster, of Gilmanton, was elected Secretary of the Society, and the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Society entertains a very grateful sense of the distinguished zeal and assiduity with which the Female Auxiliary Associations have engaged in the work of supplying the destitute poor with the Word of God.

At the annual meeting held at Newport, September 2, 1829, Rev. John H. Church, D.D., was elected a Vice-President. The Society voted to approve the resolution of the American Bible Society to furnish every destitute family in the United States with a copy of the Bible within two years, and also voted to give that Society a pledge of twelve thousand dollars to aid in carrying the above resolution into effect. At this meeting a number of persons became life members by the payment of thirty dollars. A collection of $204.78 was taken, and with pledges, a total of $1,075.00 was received.

In 1830 Mr. Asaph Evans was elected Treasurer of this Society, and County Bible Societies were organized in Rockingham and Grafton Counties.

The Twentieth Anniversary of the New Hampshire Bible Society was held at Concord, N. H., September 7, 1831, and furnished opportunity for pleasing congratulations and joyful retrospect. The Secretary says, "The history of the first twenty years of our labors exhibits many luminous pages, which, like those of the sacred volume we are engaged in circulating, cheer

and animate us with brighter and more exalted hopes. Few, comparatively, are the mournful shades cast over the picture. While Langdon and Means, among its Presidents, and Payson, Tappan and Haven, among its Vice-Presidents, have gone to receive their reward, a large proportion of the early friends and supporters of this Society still survive to witness its prosperity, and anticipate the consummation of its designs."

The report of the year has this interesting paragraph, "In all parts of the state the unusual attention to *protracted meetings* has diverted the mind in some measure from the customary collections for this object. But we rejoice in the fact, hailing it as a sure harbinger, that the happy fruits resulting from these meetings will be seen in future years, in a very great increase of contributions to our funds."

During the year there were issued from the Depository, 770 Bibles and 957 Testaments, making a total of 22,335 Bibles and 14,192 Testaments issued by the Society since its formation.

At the twenty-first annual meeting held at Amherst, September 5, 1832, after a season of prayer, the sum of $1,042.00 was pledged; and in 1833, $3,000.00 paid to the American Society.

At the twenty-second annual meeting held at Keene, September 4, 1833, Hon. Joel Parker, LL.D., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Rev. Isaac W. Putnam, D.D., were elected Vice-Presidents. The records of the meeting read:

On motion by Rev. George Shepard, Agent of the American Bible Society, seconded by the Rev. Henry G. Ludlow of New York City, Resolved, That this Society view with gratitude to God the recent openings in different parts of the unevangelized nations for the circulation of the sacred Scriptures, and that we pledge our efficient co-operation in sustaining the American Bible Society in their recent resolution to go forward with redoubled ardor in their work, in concert with other National Bible Societies, until the whole world is supplied with the Word of Life.

Following the adoption of the resolution, twenty-three persons pledged to become life members of the Society, and an offering of $155.71, a gold watch, and several articles of jewelry was received.

In 1834 His Excellency Gov. William Badger was elected Vice-President, and in 1835 Rev. John Wood.

At the twenty-fifth annual meeting held at Exeter, August 31, 1836, it was reported that in the twenty years since the formation of the American Bible Society, the New Hampshire Bible Society had paid into its treasury as donations $16,922.18, and for the purchase of books $18,949.66, and that $42,273.41 had been expended in the distribution of the Scriptures. This year the mountain and seashore hotels were furnished with Bibles by the Society.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting was held at New Ipswich, August 29, 1838. Rev. Zedekiah S. Barstow was elected a Vice-President and Dr. Thomas Chadbourne, of Concord, Treasurer. The Board of Directors voted that the Prudential Committee be instructed to correspond with the several ministerial associations and urge them to act as agents or devise efficient measures to increase the funds of the Society.

The Secretary's report for 1839 says, "Within ten years this Society has investigated the whole ground within the limit of the state and caused every family to be supplied with the Bible, who would receive it. The children between eight and sixteen have been given a copy of the New Testament; a copy of the Bible has been placed in every cell in the State Prison; the alms houses furnished; and a Bible placed in the sleeping rooms of the hotels of the state; and we are now to attempt a second general supply of New Hampshire with the Bible."

The report for 1840 records the death of Prof. Ebenezer Adams, for twenty-three years President of the Society. He manifested his zeal for the cause by a prompt fidelity in the performance of duty. Even with the care of college work, he gave prompt attention to the duties of his office. Also the death of Rev. John H. Church, D.D. His life was a bright exhibition of whatever is kind and excellent in man; and to his piety, and talents, and eminent services, all who knew him spontaneously unite in bearing honorable testimony. He was one of the originators of the Society, for eleven years its Secretary, and for more than a quarter

of a century, one of its principal managers and officers. It also records the resignation of Rev. Daniel Lancaster, and the election of Rev. Joseph Lane, of Gilmanton, as Secretary of the Society.

The thirtieth annual meeting was held at Francestown, August 25, 1841. Dr. Daniel Adams, of Mont Vernon, was elected President, and Hon. John Folsom, a Vice-President. There were appointed 143 local agents to work in the towns of the state. The sleeping rooms of hotels and sailors' boarding houses in Portsmouth were supplied with Bibles. Jonathan Cummings, of Plymouth, was employed as an agent in Coös County and he reported 134 destitute families, and 1,100 Bibles and Testaments disposed of in the County. The report of this year states that since its organization there have been sent out from its Depository 32,442 Bibles and 38,008 Testaments, making a total of 70,450 copies; and that a local Depository was established in the city of Portsmouth.

During 1842 the merchant and fishing vessels sailing from Portsmouth were supplied with Bibles; also the public houses and sailors' boarding houses.

During 1844 a donation of $3,042.00 was paid to the American Bible Society. Local Depositories were opened in the Custom House, and in the Seaman's Home at Portsmouth, and also in Newcastle.

During 1845 the New Hampshire Bible Society received a legacy of one thousand dollars from Horace Appleton Haven, of Portsmouth; and a donation of $2,530.00 was made to the American Bible Society.

The records of 1846 show the following: "By the munificence of a lady in Concord, a package of Bibles has been sent to the White Mountain House, another to the Notch House, and another to the La Fayette House at the Franconia Notch, for the purpose of supplying the sleeping rooms of these houses."

The thirty-sixth annual meeting was held at Meredith, August 25, 1847. Gen. Robert Davis was elected a Vice-President, and

Rev. Ebenezer E. Cummings, D.D.

Vice-President, 1866–1880.

Rev. Joseph Lane, having received an appointment as agent of the American Bible Society in New Hampshire, entered upon his duties in July.

During 1848 Merrimack County was canvassed, 283 families were found destitute and 2,300 Bibles and Testaments put in the hands of the needy. In Rockingham County 3,907 Bibles and Testaments were distributed. In Sullivan County 519 copies were sold. In Carroll County 206 families were found destitute and 1,361 copies of the Scriptures were sold and donated. Dea. William G. Brown, of Campton, was appointed an agent of Grafton County, and visited 428 families and disposed of 325 copies of the Scriptures.

During 1849 Strafford County was canvassed by Dea. John S. R. Brown; Grafton County by Dea. William G. Brown; Hillsborough County by Rev. Amos Abbott and Rev. John Jones; and Sullivan County by Rev. Chester W. Levings. In all 24,008 families were visited, 828 destitute families found, and 9,231 copies of the Scriptures placed in circulation. During the year a donation of $2,528.56 was sent to the American Bible Society.

The thirty-ninth annual meeting was held at Great Falls, August 28, 1850. Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D., was elected a Vice-President. On account of the feeble health of the Secretary, Rev. Joseph Lane, Rev. Isaac Willey, of Goffstown, was elected to the office and Henry A. Newhall, of Concord, Treasurer. Rev. Joseph Lane died September 27, at the age of 53. His life had been active and eventful. He was first a missionary of the American Board among the Tuscarora Indians; for a time acting pastor of the Congregational Church at Franklin; the pastor of the Congregational Churches at Meredith and Center Harbor; Agent of the Home Missionary Society in Kentucky; pastor of the Congregational Church at Westbrook, Me.; acting pastor of the Congregational Church at Farmington; Agent of the American Tract Society; Agent of the American Bible Society in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont for three years; Agent of the Bible Society of Maine; and Secretary of the New Hampshire Bible Society from 1841 to 1850. He is said to have been

a man of more than ordinary ability as a public speaker, and his course was marked by great earnestness, simplicity and self-denial. Much of his life was devoted to the cause of Christian benevolence.

This year thirty-one towns were canvassed, 268 families found destitute, and a donation of $2,839.37 was made to the American Bible Society.

At the fortieth annual meeting held at Acworth, August 27, 1851, the subject of changing the time and place of the annual meeting of the Society came up for consideration. It had always been held in connection with the General Association of Congregational and Presbyterian Churches. The Society was designed to include all denominations of Christians in the state, but the men who established it and had sustained it from the beginning being of the Congregational and Presbyterian denominations, the anniversary meetings of the Society had been held in connection with the religious gatherings of these denominations. With a view to extending the usefulness of the Society and of inviting to the annual meeting all friends of the Bible cause, it was,

Voted, That the annual meeting of this Society be established at Concord, on the Thursday following the first Wednesday of June of each year, at 10 o'clock A. M.

It was also voted, That the Secretary extend an invitation to the friends of the Bible cause throughout the state to meet with the Society.

The change in the time and place of holding the annual meeting, however, did not take place for ten years.

The Bible Society Record, a paper published monthly by the American Bible Society, was furnished gratuitously to each minister in the state co-operating with the Society, a custom which was been continued to the present time.

The following persons were employed by the Society during the year for canvass work. Rev. Robert Page, Rev. Amos Abbott, Rev. Ezra Newton, Dea. William G. Brown, and Mr. David Parmenter. Forty-five towns were canvassed during 1850, 7,287 families visited, 327 found destitute, and 3,954 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation. The sleeping rooms of the Crawford House at the White Mountains and the hotel at

Hillsborough Bridge were supplied with Bibles, and $3,316.06 forwarded to the American Bible Society of which $207.33 came from the Methodist Episcopal Conference of New Hampshire.

During the year the Society received legacies as follows: from Miss Elizabeth Jewett, of Hollis, $600; from Miss Mary Bartlett, of Campton, $180.35; from Miss Hannah Adams, of Rindge, $100; and from Miss Sarah Gibson, of New Ipswich, $25.

At the fifty-first annual meeting of the Society, held in the Congregational Church at Pittsfield, August 25, 1852, Rev. Nathan Lord, D.D., LL.D., Samuel Fletcher, and Richard Boylston, were elected Vice-Presidents.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That there is special need this day for exhorting all, even Christians, to more reading of the Bible.

Resolved, That no instrumentality can bring God so intelligibly near to the soul, and give the Christian virtues their appropriate dignity and grace, as the earnest and continuous study of the Bible, and that very much in proportion to our habitual familiarity with the Word of God, as a direct and constant source of Christian knowledge, consolation and hope, will be the strength of our faith and the efficiency of our Christian influence.

The sentiment of the resolutions was illustrated by the case of an old man who learned to read after he was eighty years old, and the efficacy of the Word of God upon his mind.

In 1853 Rev. Isaac Willey, Secretary of the Society, received an appointment as agent of the American Bible Society in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Eighty-five towns were reported as canvassed in 1852, 19,002 families visited, 1,041 found destitute, and 11,254 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation. On the 12th day of May a special meeting of the Society was held at Newport in connection with the conference of the Methodist Episcopal Churches of New Hampshire.

The forty-third annual meeting was held at Derry, August 25, 1854, and Rev. Benjamin P. Stone, D. D., was elected Treasurer. During the year 12,775 families were visited, 390 found destitute, 7,837 copies of the Scriptures circulated, and there was a general refurnishing of the public houses, railroad stations, passenger and freight trains with Bibles. Since the formation of the Society

161,646 copies of the Scriptures had been distributed by it in the state.

The forty-fourth annual meeting was held at Concord, August 29, 1855. Rev. Osman C. Baker, D.D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church was elected a Vice-President.

Within the preceding five years the state had been canvassed by faithful men. They sold 26,174 Bibles at cost, donated 5,225 copies to the needy, visited 57,784 families out of the 64,000 in the state and found 2,291 families destitute. Dea. William G. Brown says, "During this year (1854–5) I visited 30 towns and cities. Soon after the 4th of July, 1854, a report was circulated that the Catholics in Manchester had destroyed their Bibles. To ascertain the truth of this, I spent two days in September calling upon Catholic families. It was apparent that in a very few cases Bibles had been put away or kept out of sight; but I found many Bibles and Testaments that had been left with them during the two previous years. Some were kept out of sight and others were kept locked up. In one instance, a Catholic lady said they had no Bible and didn't want one. After conversing with her for a short time, she unlocked her trunk, and took out a Bible I had given her the previous year. The reason she assigned for saying she had no Bible was that she was afraid I was a spy sent out to get the Bible. To my inquiring whether she read it, she replied that she did, and also her Catholic Bible. 'Which do you like best?' said I. 'I don't think there is much difference,' she replied. One fact is very apparent, and it is one I wish to notice in this connection. It is this, that I found the Catholics in Manchester the present year much better supplied with the Catholic Bible than ever before, and I think there is no other city in the United States of the same population where a less destitution of the Scriptures can be found among the native families. Of 2,200 families, only one was found destitute." Dea. Brown adds, "In one town where the people generally attended church, I was told by a member of the church that I shouldn't do anything there with Bibles, for everybody had them and enough of them, too. In that town I found five families without a Bible, and sold 250 copies."

The reports of 1855–56–57 show 31,441 families visited and 789 destitute, and 14,029 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation.

Hon. Edward Spalding.

President, 1860–1895.

The forty-eighth annual meeting was held at Boscawen, August 24, 1859, and Hon. Lyman D. Stevens was elected a Vice-President. The Directors voted that the Secretary bring before the Society at its next meeting the question of amending the Constitution so that its annual meeting may be held at a different time and place from that now fixed.

The forty-ninth meeting was held at Claremont, August 29, 1860. Dr. Daniel Adams, after faithful service of nineteen years, declined re-election, and the Hon. Edward Spalding, M.D., of Nashua, was elected to succeed him in the office, and the Hon. Matthew Harvey a Vice-President. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that this Society has heard with regret the remarks of its President, Hon. Daniel Adams, tendering his resignation of the office which he has held so many years to the satisfaction of its friends, and to the evident advantage of the Bible cause. In accepting his resignation we hereby tender him our sincere thanks, and assure him in his retirement he is accompanied by our continued sympathy and high respect.

Though eighty-eight years of age, he retired to revise and print a new edition of Adams' Arithmetic.

It was voted to supply again the railroad stations of the state with Bibles. It was also voted to admit delegates from County Bible Societies.

The fiftieth annual meeting was held at Portsmouth, August 28, 1861. A semi-centennial address was delivered by the Rev. Nathan Lord, D.D., LL.D., president of Dartmouth College, and the following was voted: "That the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Dr. Lord for the learned and eloquent address delivered by him this day on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of this Society."

The records say "That the men who were moved by its principles in the formation of the Society have passed away; not one survives, but the work goes on. The issues from the Depository of the Society from its formation to the present time were 210,865 copies of the Scriptures." The times through which the Society was then passing were hard. The country was in a state of warfare and its business had, to a great extent, been suspended, but

war or business depression was not to be regarded as a hindrance to its work. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd regiments from this state were supplied, and the Society was ready to supply others as they should leave for the seat of war. For this purpose the American Bible Society prepared a "Soldiers' Bible,"—comprising the New Testament and the Psalms,—weighing two ounces. Care was taken to supply recruits and to re-supply regiments when needed. Bibles were also forwarded to Hon. Daniel Clark, then a Senator in Congress, for supplying New Hampshire men in the hospitals near Washington. Other means were taken to re-supply our men in the army and in other hospitals. It has been said that no army was ever so well supplied with the Scriptures as our own in the Civil War. A New Hampshire Bible Society representative followed the regiments as they moved from one camp to another. To the sick and wounded the Scriptures were of inestimable value. A Bible was found lying open on the breast of a soldier who had died, with a leaf turned down where he had last read.

Hospitals, where the sick and wounded were gathered by the thousands, were places of deep interest to the Bible colporteur. Rev. John A. Hamilton, Chaplain of the Sixth H. N. Regiment, wrote as follows: "My attention is turned to the supply of my regiment after the battle of Bull Run, and many of our soldiers were found destitute."

In 1862 ten United States vessels were supplied, and in 1864 fourteen vessels, and in the same year four Russian vessels received 331 Bibles in their own language as a gift from this Society.

These cases are given to show the continued and untiring work of the Society. In a single year 27,278 copies of the Scriptures were disposed of in this manner. The supply of prisoners of war with the Bible was everywhere attended to. The sick and the wounded from the enemy shared in all the treatment and care of our hospitals. A chaplain in his rounds through the wards of a hospital noticed a Colonel from the Confederate army who appeared to be suffering and inquired if he could do anything for him. The Colonel's reply was "Nothing," although it was apparent he was failing. The chaplain wiped the sweat from his brow, furnished him with gruel, and did other acts for his comfort. In expressing his gratitude he added, "You Yankees are the strangest people I ever heard of. You fight us like devils, but when we are in want, you are angels of mercy."

The American Bible Society resolved that "While we as Christians acknowledge the Holy Scriptures as the bond of union, no dissension shall deter us from spreading the Gospel of Truth over every section of our afflicted land."

It is said that Gen. Butler once objected to the passing of more than a thousand copies of the Scriptures through the lines, because he thought that number of copies ought to supply the Confederate army. Yet during the years of the war, not less than two hundred and fifty-eight thousand copies of the Scriptures were permitted to pass through our lines as donations to the Southern army; and these were largely, if not wholly, supplied by the American Bible Society.

During the war, the British and Foreign Bible Society, fearing that by the extended operations of the American Bible Society it might become embarrassed, proposed to aid the Society to the extent of ten thousand dollars. The reply of the Directors was to the effect that such embarrassment was not anticipated, but that should it occur, they would gratefully accept the proffered aid. At the close of the war, notwithstanding the large supply of our own and the Confederate armies, the Directors of the American Bible Society made a donation to the British and Foreign Bible Society of a set of electrotype plates for the Arabic Bible of the value of forty thousand dollars.

For the first time in its history, August 27, 1862, the New Hampshire Bible Society held its annual meeting apart from the General Association of Congregational and Presbyterian Churches of New Hampshire. It was held in the South Congregational Church in Concord, and the following vote was passed: "That until otherwise ordered by the Society, the annual meeting of the Society be held at some other time and place than that with the meetings of the General Association of this State." Auxiliary County Bible Society delegates were admitted, also representatives from other religious bodies. Five additional regiments were supplied with Bibles, making eight in all, and nine separate companies. The number of copies disposed of was 6,419.

At Portsmouth Harbor the following United States ships were supplied: *Kearsarge, Macedonia, Marion, Dale, Constellation, Conamaugh, Sebago, Mahusha,* and *Sonoma.*

The fifty-second annual meeting was held at the First Congregational Church, Concord, June 26, 1863, and Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D. was elected Vice President. The time of holding the annual meeting having been changed from September to June, the report, which is called an annual report, covered but little over eight months. This change of date, together with the fact that the first annual meeting was held four months after the organization of the Society accounts for the holding of the fifty-second annual meeting at the close of the fifty-first year of the Society's existence and work, and also for the holding of the semi-centennial of the Society of the close of the forty-ninth year.

During this year the New Hampshire Bible Society opened a Depository in the City of Washington, in the room of the New Hampshire Soldiers' Aid Society, for the re-supply of the New Hampshire regiments at the front; but this work was soon transferred to the Christian Commission.

Seventeen hundred dollars was donated to the American Bible Society, and two hundred ninety-five dollars to the Massachusetts Bible Society. At the navy yard at Portsmouth, twelve vessels were built, one an iron-clad; twelve of the largest in our navy were repaired; from 1,500 to 2, 500 men were employed, and every vessel which left the harbor was supplied with the Scriptures. There were then thirteen County Bible Societies auxiliary to the Society in this state, as follows; one each in the Counties of Strafford, Cheshire, Sullivan, Belknap and Carroll; and two each in the Counties of Rockingham, Hillsborough, Grafton and Coös.

Items of interest during 1864 were the following: Supplies were made to our National ships; *Ossipee* (137 men), *Fernandina, St. Lawrence* (150 men), *Nipsic, Agawam* (150 men), *Alabama* (200 men), *Pioneer, Undalia, New Hampshire* (74 guns) with 1100 men, two hundred of whom were enlisted in our navy after service in the Confederate navy and three hundred were contraband. Forts Sullivan and Constitution, with the hospitals, were supplied; also the merchant ships *Silma* and *Daniel Marcey.*

In 1865 there were found in the Harbor of Portsmouth to be re-supplied with the Scriptures the warships *New Hampshire,*

Agawam, *Alabama*, and *Colorado* with 650 men; also new troops at the forts, and freemen at the Navy Yard. The military hospitals in the City of Manchester were supplied, and besides the usual amount of work was done in the state. During the year, seven thousand families were visited, two hundred were found destitute, and all who would receive the Bible were supplied.

In 1866 occurred the death of Hon. Matthew Harvey, Ex-Governor of New Hampshire and District Judge of the United States Court, also Vice-President of this Society. The records show the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we cherish with profound respect the memory of the late Hon. Matthew Harvey, Senior Vice-President of this Society; that we recognize the good providence of God in his long, peaceful and useful life; that as a member of this Society through the period of about fifty years, his work of charity and piety evinced his faith in the Word of God; and his death fulfilled the Scripture. "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season."

At the annual meeting held at Concord, June 19, Rev. Ebenezer E. Cummings, D.D. was elected Vice-President. Addresses were made by His Excellency Gov. Frederick Smythe, by Rev. William Butler, D.D., a minister from India, by Rev. Mr. Hartwell, a missionary from China, and by Samo, a Chinese. The income of the Society for the year was $10,070.92, and 5,758 copies of the Scriptures were received from New York.

During the year 1867, 11,985 copies of the Scriptures were disposed of in the canvass work of the state. Within two years 24,808 copies were sent out from the Depository, and thirty-nine persons were engaged in the work. More than twenty thousand families were visited and 721 found destitute.

The fifty-seventh annual meeting was held at Concord, June 16, 1868, and was addressed by Dr. Edward Aiken, of Amherst, formerly connected with the Syrian Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and a life member of this Society. He gave an account of the translation and printing of the sacred Scriptures in the Arabic tongue for the use of the one hundred and fifty million Mohammedans who speak

and read that language; also of the labors of Dr. Eli Smith, the principal agent in the work, and of the closing scene of his life, which he was permitted to witness. Of this closing incident he said, "As Dr. Smith's health declined and he was unable to ride, his study was transferred first to his house and then to his bedroom. He died in the harness in 1857, praying God to spare him to complete the work of the Arabic Bible. Had he been less consecrated to the work he would not have been overtaken in it. His exactness and zeal hastened his death." Dr. Aiken assisted in the work and understood its magnitude and its difficulties. The work was finished by Rev. Dr. C. A. Van Dyke in 1864.

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Bouton, First Vice President of the Society, being present, recalled the day of Dr. Eli Smith's conversion; how that while in Yale College in 1820 it was said among his classmates "Smith is converted—Rejoice in hope."

During the year more than twenty thousand families in the state were visited, 11,985 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation, and thirty-one colporteurs employed.

The fifty-eighth annual meeting held at Concord, June 29, 1869, was addressed by Rev. Lorenzo D. Barrows, D.D., Rev. Henry M. Stone, Rev. William Clark, Secretary of the New Hampshire Home Missionary Society, Dea. William G. Brown, Rev. Nathaniel L. Chase, Rev. Joseph H. Brown, and Rev. Moses Cole. A donation of $3,704.01 was made to the American Bible Society.

The year 1870 records the death of Rev. Benjamin P. Stone, D.D., who was elected Treasurer of the Society in 1854. At the meeting of the Board of Directors held in Concord, December 5, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the Divine dispensation by which our fellow laborer, Rev. Benjamin P. Stone, D.D., has been removed from his earthly labor, we place on record our deep sense of his Christian integrity and energy, and the high estimation in which we held his faithful service rendered for so many years past as Treasurer and Depositary, and the aid he has rendered in administering the affairs of the Society and inculcating the Word of God throughout the state and the world.

Dea. Hazen Pickering, of Concord, was appointed Treasurer and Depositary of the Society until the next annual meeting.

Hon. John Kimball.

Treasurer, 1871–

The Hon. Henry A. Bellows, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, addressed the meeting.

In the fifty-ninth annual report the Secretary said "Another year of care and labor has been added to the fifty-eight which have gone before it in the history of this Society. Sixty-eight towns have been canvassed, 15,723 families visited, and 321 found destitute, and $2,632.49 were sent as a donation to the American Bible Society." It was voted to hold the next annual meeting in Manchester.

The sixtieth annual meeting was held in accordance with the vote of the Society in the First Congregational Church at Manchester, June 6, 1871. Dea. Hazen Pickering, after five months of service, sent in his resignation as Treasurer and Depositary of the Society on account of ill health. The following action was taken:

Voted, That the thanks of the Directors of the New Hampshire Bible Society be tendered to Hazen Pickering, Esq., for his valuable services as Treasurer of this Society, and that we deeply regret that his health is such as to lead him to resign this office, and in view of the important services to the Society by Miss Fanny E. Pickering during the sickness of her father, that she be constituted a life member of the Society.

Hon. John Kimball, the present Treasurer and Depositary, was elected at this meeting. The report of the year says, "The Bible work in the state was carried forward much as in former years, new fields have been explored, and new wants have been supplied. The tried agents of the Society, Rev. Nathaniel L. Chase and Dea. William G. Brown, have devoted their time to its interests, and 11,491 families have been visited. The Society received a legacy of one thousand dollars from the estate of Mrs. Sally Batchelder, late of Mason, to be expended for the purchase and distribution of the Word of God among those in the state who are destitute. A donation of $7,158.80 was remitted to the American Bible Society.

The following inscription is on the tombstone in the cemetery at Deering, N. H.

James Gregg
Died
February 9, 1871.
Age 56 yrs., 5 months, 22 days.
He bequeathed $23,000 to the
American Bible Society.
That life is long which answers
life's great end.

The report of the year 1872 records the death of Rev. Osman C. Baker, D.D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for twenty years one of the Vice Presidents of the Society, and also one of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. "His sound judgment, his moral integrity, his careful business habits, his readiness to meet all the duties required of him, made him of great importance to our work."

At the sixty-first annual meeting held at Concord, June 13, Rev. James Pike was elected Vice-President. The Secretary's report showed thirty-six towns canvassed, fifteen thousand families visited, and 183 found destitute. The Treasurer reported six legacies amounting to $2,922.39 received as follows: from E. G. Currier, of Somersworth, $300; from Miss Eliza T. Stevens, of Loudon, $10; from Miss Sylvia Twitchell, of Rindge, $70.37; from Miss Mary Davis, of Rindge, $195.40; from Miss Sarah J. Lawrence, of Amherst, $250; and from Miss Ann G. Merrill, of Concord, $2,396.62. Subsequently $350.88 was received on account of Miss Merrill's legacy, making the full amoun $2,747.50. The donations to the American Bible Society for the year ending May 31, 1871, as reported by Rev. Benjamin P. Stone and Dea. Hazen Pickering, Treasurers of the Society, amounted to $4,078.93.

The sixty-second annual report for the year ending May 31, 1873 says, "Including the money paid for books and the donation of $1,061.70 from this Society, the donations which have gone directly to the Treasurer of that Society, without passing through our treasury, and the legacies that have been paid to the American Bible Society from this state during the year ending with March, amount to $11,483.11." The Rev. Silas L. Blake, of Concord, was elected Vice-President. Sixty-five towns were

canvassed, 22,281 families visited, and 5,535 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation.

The resignation of Rev. Isaac Willey as the New Hampshire agent of the American Bible Society was read at the annual meeting and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the resignation of Rev. Isaac Willey of the agency of the American Bible Society for this state, in which he has labored with fidelity and efficiency for more than twenty years, the thanks of this Society are eminently due for his earnest and persistent labors. It is our hope that his life and health will be preserved, and that this Society may be able to avail itself of much assistance from his long experience and valuable counsels."

Mr. Willey retained his office as Secretary and was requested by the Board of Directors to act as the Society's agent in New Hampshire, doing what his judgment might suggest and health permit.

1874. For several years the duty of doing something for the benefit of the French people coming among us in large numbers from Canada had been considered by the Directors. They were coming here seeking employment,—a strong, healthy and industrious people. They readily adopted our institutions, but did not have our Bible. It was thought best to secure the services of a competent Christian man, who had been brought up among them. For this special service, the Rev. A. Maillard, from Canada, was employed. This Society was aided in the work by the New Hampshire Home Missionary Society, by the Methodist Episcopal Conference, and by a contribution from the Baptist Convention. Mr. Maillard was stationed at Manchester where he labored for the spiritual good of the French people for two years. He also visited Nashua, Concord, Franklin, Tilton, Somersworth and other places in the state where French people were to be found, with satisfactory results. In the canvass of the state 14,510 families were visited, and 3,175 copies of the Bible distributed.

Three legacies amounting to $1,950.00 were received during the year. The income for the Bible cause from the state for the year ending with March, as reported by the American Bible Society, was $10,531.38.

The sixty-fourth annual meeting was held at Nashua, June 29, 1875. Rev. Nathaniel L. Chase died May 3. He was born at Unity, October 30, 1813, and was a member of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of New Hampshire. For ten years he was connected with the business interests of this Society. His character fitted him eminently for Bible work and the loss of such a man was felt by the Society. The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased our Heavenly Father, in his infinite wisdom, to remove by death from the responsibilities of human life, our friend and fellow-laborer, Rev. Nathaniel L. Chase, one of the collectors and Bible distributers of this Society, therefore,

Resolved, by the officers and members of the New Hampshire Bible Society, in our annual meeting assembled, that we are profoundly sensible of the great loss this Society has sustained in the death of Rev. Nathaniel L. Chase, a faithful Christian minister, and one of the most successful workers in the Bible cause.

Resolved, That while we bow submissively to the inscrutable providence which removed our friend in the midst of his usefulness, we most devoutly implore that 'He who buries his workmen but carries on his work' will raise up others in our midst to wear his mantle and share his honor and reward.

The records of the annual meeting also state the resignation of Rev. Isaac Willey as Secretary and agent of this Society, and the adoption of the following resolutions:

Whereas, The Rev. Isaac Willey, for twenty-five years Secretary of the New Hampshire Bible Society, has tendered his resignation and the same having been accepted, therefore,

Resolved, That it is with sincere regret that this Society parts with an officer so genial and so efficient, and whose long term of service is the best certificate of fitness for the duties that have devolved upon him.

Resolved, That this Society gratefully recognizes the fact that, under the blessing of God, its usefulness in disseminating the Bible throughout the state, during his official connection with it, has been largely due to the fidelity and untiring energy of our venerable brother.

Resolved, That in parting with dear Brother Willey, this

Society would express the hope that we may still have his counsels and prayers to cheer us in our work; that it may please the Lord to add many years to his life, and that in his declining days, he may be able to say, "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

We have the following incident of interest: "A Bible was bought of the New Hampshire Bible Society in 1815, about the the time the head of the family became a Christian and established family worship. It was read in the family morning and evening for forty years. In that time ten children came forward in life, all of whom commenced the Christian life at home, and, with the exception of one who died, became heads of families and lived in six different states, while the aged parents, sustained by its promises, departed in peace."

Need it be said that one of these children was "Father Willey," the long honored secretary of this Society?

Another of the ten children was Rev. Worcester Willey, who for twenty-six years served as a missionary for the American Board among the Cherokee Indians, and was the originator of the Cherokee character alphabet in which the first New Testament was written for the Cherokee nation.

The Bible proves its value by the results that follow its circulation, and the above named Bible may be regarded, not in every particular, but generally, as a fair representative of the many thousands of copies disposed of in the state during the earlier years of the existence of this society.

The Rev. Silas L. Blake of Concord, was elected Secretary, and Rev. Daniel J. Smith and Rev. Frederick Alvord, Vice-Presidents. Mr. Moses P. Page of Gilmanton, in closing the business of a merchant in his advanced years, proposed to appropriate a portion of his property to the leading benevolent objects of the day; among these objects was this Society to which he gave twenty-five hundred dollars. This donation was entered upon the books of the Society as the Moses P. Page Fund, the income to be spent in Bible work in the state.

The canvass work for this year was done almost wholly by Dea. William G. Brown. Fifty-one towns were canvassed, 7,494 families visited, 174 found destitute, and 2,912 copies of the Scriptures distributed.

A legacy of nine hundred fifty dollars was received from Mrs. M. L. Smith, of Acworth, and one hundred dollars from

Miss Eleanor Nutter, of Barnstead. It is worthy of note that the people in all conditions of life have been drawn to this work and have the same desire that all may enjoy the blessings of this Book. An old lady living back among the mountains is remembered, who was accustomed to sit up and knit at night, after the family had retired, to earn her two dollars a year for this cause.

The sixty-fifth annual meeting was held in the South Congregational Church in Concord, June 20, 1876. Rev. James Thurston was elected Vice-President. At this meeting a new office was created, that of Superintendent, and Dea. William G. Brown was elected to fill the office. The function of his office was to oversee the Bible Society work in the state.

The seventh article of the Constitution was so changed as to allow the directors to call the annual meeting of the Society at any time and place during the month of June. The following items of interest were reported by the Secretary.

By order of the directors, the Secretary saw the superintendents of the railroads centering in Concord and made efforts to have racks put in all the passenger cars and freight cabooses of the several roads, to receive the Bibles presented by the American Bible Society. The Concord Railroad Company immediately complied with the request, and was supplied, and thanks were tendered to the superintendent for the alacrity with which he aided the Secretary in executing this wish of the Society.

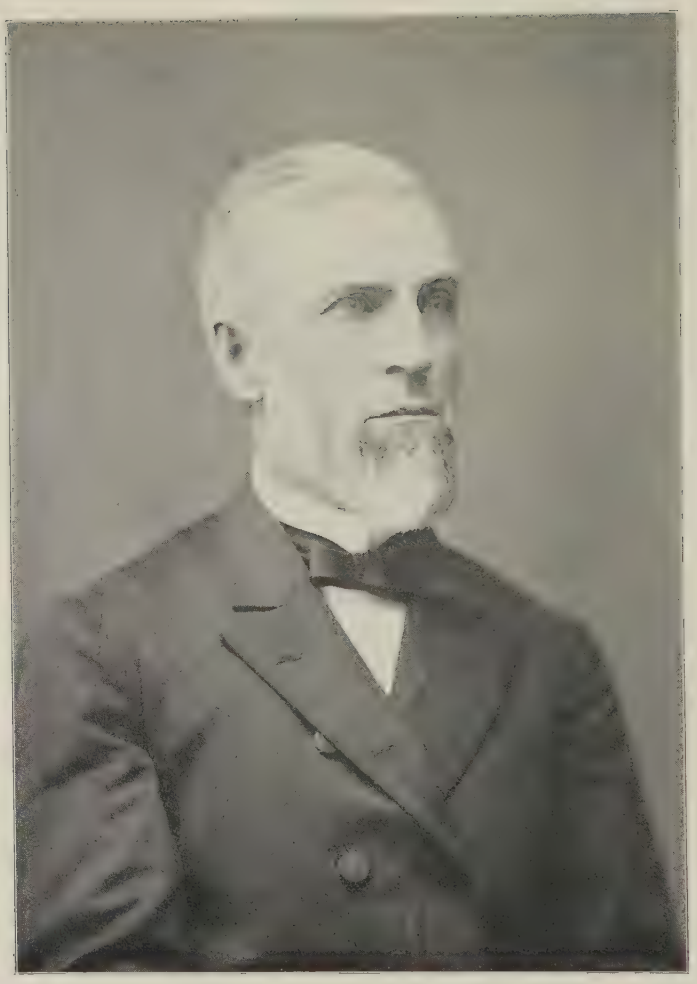
During the year ending May 31, ninety-one towns were canvassed, 27,464 families visited, 309 Protestant families found destitute, and 6,198 copies of the Scriptures put in circulation,

Five legacies were received as follows:

Miss Savale Green, of Dover	$100.00
L. J. McIndoe, of Windsor, Vt.	966.57
Ezekiel Lane, of Raymond,	325.00
Mrs. Cozby and Mrs. Perkins, of Jaffrey,	25.00
Miss Sarah Church, of Pelham	100.00

The sixty-sixth annual meeting was held in the South Congregational Church, Concord, June 8, 1877. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Directors of the New Hampshire Bible Society hereby gratefully recognize the generous bequest (Five



Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D.D.

Director, 1875–1878.
Secretary, 1878–1898.

Thousand Dollars) . . . provided in the will of the late Mrs. Betsey Whitehouse, of Pembroke.

The Superintendent in his report for this year says, "We go forth with the Bible in our hand, trusting in the promise of God that his Word shall not return void."

Eighty-nine towns were canvassed, 19,841 families visited, 338 Protestant families found destitute, and 5,475 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation.

The following legacies were received:

Mrs. Mary J. Whidden, of Derry,	$956.00
Mrs. Dorothy K. Wheeler, of Lyndeboro,	100.00.

At a meeting of the Directors held October 11, Rev. Silas L. Blake resigned the Secretaryship, and Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D. D. was appointed to fill out the unexpired term.

At the sixty-seventh annual meeting held in the South Congregational Church, Concord, June 19, 1878, the Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D.D., was elected Secretary, and Rev. Elisha Adams, D.D., and Rev. Edward Robie, D.D., Vice Presidents. The following resolution was adopted:

Recognizing the providence that has removed from our midst and long service in the Bible cause, Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D., we would here record our appreciation of his love of the Bible, his earnest defense and proclamation of its great truths. In his death this, and every good cause, has lost a devoted and faithful friend, yet we remember with gratitude that this loss to us is eternal gain to him.

The Superintendent reported 22,471 families visited, 368 Protestant families found destitute, and 7,561 copies of the Scriptures circulated.

At the sixty-eighth annual meeting held at Concord, June 24, 1879, Rev. Isaac Willey was elected a Vice-President.

The Superintendent's report for the year shows the usual activity in Bible work with the following results: Seventy-four towns were canvassed, 15,207 families visited, 270 Protestant families found destitute, and 6,885 copies of the Scriptures distributed.

At the sixty-ninth annual meeting held at Concord, June 29, 1880, Rev. Silas Curtis was elected a Vice-President.

This year one hundred and six towns were canvassed, 28,273 families visited, 353 Protestant families found destitute, and 10,234 copies of the Scriptures distributed.

The seventieth annual meeting was held in Concord, June 24, 1881. Hon. Jonathan E. Sargent, LL.D., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D., were elected Vice-Presidents. The Superintendent reported seventy-four towns canvassed, 22,112 families visited, 238 Protestant families found destitute, and 8,816 copies of the Scriptures distributed.

At the seventy-first annual meeting held at the Depository in Concord, June 26, 1882, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we approve of the plan, and are in hearty sympathy with it, by which the American Bible Society again enters upon the work of re-supplying the people of our whole country with the Scriptures.

Resolved, That in carrying out the plan of the American Bible Society, we will heartily engage in the work in our own state, for which we will be responsible and do what we can to aid them in the great work of re-supply.

Resolved, That in view of the fact that we this year enter upon a more enlarged re-supply of our own state, we ask all the churches in the state which are in sympathy with this movement, to give us a contribution.

The re-supply of the state began immediately.

The Superintendent's report says, "To carry this work on at home and abroad, there must be continued and increasing contributions to the Bible cause. We again ask our friends to contribute each year in aid of this object; that in those towns where our collectors do not go, a collection be taken during the year in the churches for this good old cause. During the year one hundred and ten towns were canvassed, 18,722 families visited, 241 Protestant families found destitute, and 8,899 copies of the Scriptures distributed.

The seventy-second annual meeting was held in Concord, June 30, 1883. Rev. Sullivan Holman was elected a Vice-

President. The report ending May 31, shows ninety towns canvassed, 32,576 families visited, 307 Protestant families found destitute, and 10,229 copies of the Scriptures circulated.

On October 24 the Rev. Isaac Willey died at his home in Pembroke. He was born in Campton September 8, 1793, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1822, from Andover Theological Seminary in 1825, and was ordained January 18, 1826. For nine years he was pastor of the Congregational Church at Rochester, N. H. He was Secretary of the New Hampshire Home Missionary Society for 1834–37; for seventeen years was pastor of the Congregational Church at Goffstown, N. H., and in 1850 was elected Secretary of the New Hampshire Bible Society, an office which he filled with acceptance until 1875. In 1853 he was appointed agent of the American Bible Society for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, an office which he filled until 1873. During the remaining years of his life he was active, being 90 years, 1 month, 16 days of age at the time of his death. By the death of Mr. Willey the state lost an honored citizen, the Bible Society an efficient worker, and the church a faithful member.

The report of the Superintendent at the seventy-third annual meeting of the Society, held at the Depository in Concord, June 26, 1884, shows a continued activity in the canvass work and re-supply of the state, one hundred and forty towns canvassed, 31,969 families visited, 318 families found destitute, and 9,690 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation, and only seventeen towns and the City of Concord remaining to complete the canvass of the entire state. The work was completed in 1885 with the following results, when 246 towns were canvassed, 76,760 families visited, 704 Protestant families found without a Bible, and 22,499 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation.

The canvass work was done by Dea. William G. Brown, Supt., Rev. Edward Francis, Rev. Edmund T. Gilman, Dea. James R. Leavitt, Dea. Oliver H. Parker, and Franklin S. Wood. Beside meeting the expense of the state work, a donation of thirteen hundred dollars was sent to the American Bible Society.

The seventy-fifth annual meeting was held at the Depository June 21, 1886 and the following vote was passed:

"That the President, Dr. Edward Spalding, and Treasurer, Hon. John Kimball, be appointed a committee with power to engage legal counsel, if necessary, and to settle with the executor of the will of Rev. William Richardson, late of Manchester, deceased, in regard to bequests given to the New Hampshire Bible Society by said will."

The Superintendent reports one hundred and one towns canvassed, 33,657 families visited, 244 Protestant families without a Bible, and 6,848 copies of the Scriptures distributed.

There were also several new men in the field, Rev. Ezra B. Pike, of Brentwood; Rev. John T. Davis, of Tuftonborough; Alfred S. Orne of Bow; Rev. George C. Noyes, of Sandwich; Rev. William H. Jones, of Epping; Rev. Daniel Goodhue, of Suncook; and Mr. John W. Weeks, of Columbia.

At the seventy-sixth annual meeting held at the Depository June 3, 1887, it was voted,

"That when we adjourn, it is to meet with the Hillsborough County Bible Society, in Hollis, to observe the seventy-fifth anniversary of this Society."

The Superintendent's report for the year ending May 31, shows one hundred and ten towns canvassed, 23,121 families visited, 196 families found destitute, and 6,326 copies of the Scriptures put in circulation.

The seventy-fifth anniversary meeting was held at Hollis, September 20, 1887, where the first meeting after the organization of the Society was held in 1812.

Rev. David E. Miller opened the meeting with Scripture reading and prayer. The President, Hon. Edward Spalding, gave an address upon the changes in the world and in Christian work in seventy-five years. The historical address, reviewing the work of seventy-five years, was given by the superintendent, Dea. William G. Brown. The Secretary, Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D. D., spoke of the lessons and encouragements to be derived from the history of the years past. Rev. Albert S. Hunt, D.D., Secretary of the American Bible Society, gave an address upon the work of that Society.

The seventy-seventh annual meeting was held at the Depository in Concord, June 22, 1888. Rev. Samuel C. Keeler was

William G. Brown.

Colporteur, 1848–1892.
Director, 1855–1871.
Superintendent, 1877–1892.

elected Vice-President. The Secretary's report contained the following interesting item. With this report, Dea. William G. Brown completed forty years of service for the Society. He visited during that time 289,904 families in New Hampshire, finding 4,758 Protestant families without the Scriptures, selling 90,640 copies, and giving away 13,780 copies, thus putting into circulation 104,420 copies. He canvassed 1,073 towns and travelled 190,000 miles.

With the year closing May 31, seventy towns were canvassed, 37,057 families visited, 202 families found destitute, and 7,162 copies of the scriptures put into circulation.

The Superintendent reported for the year 1889 a continued canvass of the state with the usual good results. Eighty-three towns were canvassed, 20,465 families visited, 133 families found destitute, and 5,020 copies of the Scriptures distributed. Dea. William G. Brown sent to his personal friends in the state the following printed circular letter:

Friends of the New Hampshire Bible Society:

I have labored in the "Wilderness" of New Hampshire 40 years, in the distribution of the Bible for the Bible Society. I have found more than 4,700 Protestant families without the Bible. I have put into circulation more than 100,000 copies of the blessed Book. We have not been able to do all we wanted in giving. Especially has that been the case with orphan children and old people, who wanted the large Testament and Psalms, and who were too poor to buy. We find such in nearly all of our towns. My own heart has been often touched and drawn out for these. Often have I wished that we had more money to supply such. No better use of money could be made than to furnish these boys and girls with a suitable pocket Bible, and these poor old people with the Testament and Psalms.

Now, at the close of this 40 years' work for the Bible Society, I desire to raise among my personal friends the sum of $2,000 as a permanent fund, the interest to be used yearly for the supplying of such persons as we have named with Bibles and Testaments. I wish all who love the Bible cause, and especially my personal friends all over the state, and into whose hands this little circular may fall, will consider this object and aid in this undertaking. Will *you* not send me *something*? Every little will add to make up the whole. The interest on $1.00 will pay for a Testament, and the interest on $5.00 will pay for a Bible, year after year, and this will go on long after we are dead, and perhaps cease to be remembered by name, but our gift not dead but speaketh.

It is a cause that lies near my own heart, and one I am sure God will bless. I shall put down a good subscription myself, and earnestly ask all my friends to aid in this object. Give *all* you can cheerfully, and do not be ashamed to

send in the *small* amount. If there is no objection, I wish to publish the list of names who give to this special object in our next annual report. If there is objection to the name, please say "friend"; though I would be glad of the name. Be assured that this "fund," given by my personal friends, will be a great and lasting gratification to myself.

I want to raise this fund for the Bible Society, as a thank-offering from myself and friends, for God's favor to me, personally, and for His blessing on my poor humble efforts during all these forty years in the "Wilderness."

Yours very truly,

W. G. Brown.

The responses were liberal from all parts of the state and from all religious denominations; and the gifts soon amounted to three thousand dollars. This amount was set apart by the Treasurer as the Dea. William G. Brown fund.

The seventy-ninth annual meeting was held at the Depository in Concord, June 30, 1890. Hon. William M. Chase, LL.D. was elected a Vice-President.

1890 and 1891 were years of prosperity for the Society. The Superintendent reported for 1890 one hundred and forty-five towns canvassed, 43,623 families visited, 356 families found destitute, and 9,434 copies of the Scriptures distributed; and for 1891 two hundred and thirty-nine towns canvassed, 80,183 families visited, 541 Protestant families found destitute, and 17,485 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation, of which 4,475 copies were gifts from the Society.

In doing the work of these years the following named persons were employed: Rev. Joseph H. Brown, Rev. George W. H. Clark, Rev. George H. Hardy, Rev. William C. A. Converse, Rev. Silas G. Kellogg, Rev. James S. Harlow, Rev. James D. Legro, Dea. Charles H. Tillotson, Dea. Henry A. Peabody, Franklin S. Wood, J. Sherman Gove, John P. M. Brown, John A. Fifield, and Mrs. Samuel Litchfield.

The following is a history of the Rev. William Richardson legacy.

Rev. William Richardson, who was a Congregational clergyman, died November 1, 1869, leaving a will dated March 13, 1861, containing provisions as follows:

"First, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Olive T. Richardson, all my personal and real estate during her natural life, to be used and managed by her as she shall see fit. And I

hereby appoint her my sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

"And lastly, and whatever may remain of my property after her decease, it is my will that five hundred dollars be given to Horace D. Dudley (my blind nephew), and one hundred dollars to William R. Marden, son of Richmond Marden, of Francestown, N. H., and of the balance that one half of it be given to the New Hampshire Bible Society, and the other half to be disposed of by my beloved wife as she shall choose."

Olive T. Richardson died September 15, 1885. Her will, dated January 2, 1878, contained the following paragraph:

"Lastly, I give, bequeath, and devise unto the trustees of Phillips Academy of Andover, Massachusetts, their successors in office and assigns forever, all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both personal, real and mixed, wherever found and however situate, to hold in trust, to themselves, their successors in office and assigns forever, the principal of said property and estate to be safely invested by said trustees and their successors, and the income and interest thereof to be expended under their direction for the use and benefit of the Theological Seminary under their care."

Three suits were brought; one for an interpretation of the provisions of Mr. Richardson's will; one by Mr. Richardson's heirs against the Trustees of Phillips Academy, contesting Mrs. Richardson's right to bequeath the half of the property remaining at her decease which was not given by him to the Bible Society; and the other to determine the question whether the Bible Society's portion was one half of the estate left by Mr. Richardson, or one half of the estate as it was at the time of his wife's death. The latter suit was decided in favor of the Society, and in accordance with the decision $31,917.41 was paid November 26, 1889, to John Kimball, Treasurer of the Society.

The eighty-first annual meeting of the Society was held at the Depository in Concord, June 27, 1892. Dea. William G. Brown, Superintendent of the Society, died April 5. Death came suddenly. He retired at night on earth, but awoke in Heaven. It was not a "sunset," but a "sunrise." He was born in Hollis, July 3, 1816. In January 1849 he entered upon what proved to be his life work, the service of the New Hampshire Bible Society.

The Secretary's report says: "He was a man with rare tact and could approach all classes of men and faithfully improve every advantage given to impress the truth. His whole soul was in his work, which had become a passion with him. Every door opening to him was a new opportunity and every person he met a new privilege. But he was not a mere seller or donor of Bibles. He was an Evangelist, a messenger of the truth, and with the book he gave wise counsel and offered many an earnest prayer." He travelled every road in New Hampshire, canvassed every town, and more than once visited every home in the state. Everybody knew "Dea. Brown," the "Bible Man."

In 1878 he was elected Superintendent of the Society, and had the entire charge of Bible distribution in the state. The County Bible Societies' meetings, fifteen each year, were carried on largely by his personal effort. He had just completed the canvass of the state when death came. The last full year of canvass work reported was the largest in the history of the Society. He seemed to have finished his work and rounded out his service. He then laid down a work no other man could have done as well.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held December 19, 1892, statements were made by the Secretary and the Treasurer in regard to the work of the Society, and of the need of a Superintendent, and Rev. Edwin J. Aiken, of Concord, was elected to that office.

The eighty-second annual meeting of the Society was held at the Depository, June, 10, 1893. Rev. James K. Ewer was elected Vice-President. The report of the Treasurer was presented and the following action taken:

Whereas, the Treasurer has exhibited to the Board the bonds and other evidences of investments of the Society's funds, and it appears therefrom that he has all the securities with which he charges himself in this account, and that the investments have been judiciously made, therefore,

Resolved, That the account be accepted and approved, and that the Society assume the risk of the investments.

The death of Rev. Silas Curtis, one of the Vice-Presidents was announced, and the following minute adopted:

Whereas, The Rev. Silas Curtis, for many years an officer of this Society, has been removed by death, we record our appre-

ciation of the long and faithful service which he has rendered to this Society, and remember his constancy in the discharge of his official duties, as a true and cheerful servant of God."

At the eighty-third annual meeting, held at the Depository in Concord, June 22, 1894, Rev. Asahel S. Gilbert was elected Vice-President.

The Secretary's report contained the following:

New names have been added to the list of those who, loving this Society while living, have provided for its advancement when they are dead.

Mrs. Lucy Spalding, of Nashua, was a woman of the generation gone whose character was declared more by act than by emotion, and her hand was obedient to the behests of a large, benevolent heart. Her faith in God and His kingdom was indicated by her gifts to the different societies in which she was especially interested. Her faith in the Bible as a fountain of light for each family was proven by her bequest of ten thousand dollars to this Society. This legacy was promptly paid, and has begun its work.

Mrs. Mary A. Merriam, of Greenville, and Miss Lucy B. Richardson, of Dublin, women of sterling worth and good deeds, also left legacies to this work. Mr. Jotham Hildreth, of Lyndeborough, bequeathed to us two hundred dollars.

We are grateful to the many living whose yearly benefactions prolong our work, and treasure with thankful hearts the memory of the departed, who, by their bequests, perpetuate their work for God and humanity.

The Superintendent's report of canvass work gave for the years of 1893, 1894, and 1895, two hundred and forty-five towns canvassed, 80,901 families visited, and 11,779 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation. Rev. Edmund T. Gilman, Dea. Willis C. Prescott, Ezra C. Willard, Henry A. Peabody, Franklin S. Wood and Mrs. John T. Davis were employed as colporteurs.

The eighty-fifth annual meeting was held at the Depository in Concord, June 8, 1896.

The Secretary's report says, "At the annual meeting of the Society, June 3, 1895, Edward Spalding, LL.D., was elected its

President for the thirty-fifth time. We then recalled his long and valuable services and hoped that he might be spared for several years to come. He was then walking nearer the unseen curtain that divides this from the other world than he or we knew. He died suddenly, June 22, on his homeward way from the fishing grounds that had become dear to him by many seasons of rest there."

Dr. Edward Spalding, son of Dr. Matthias Spalding and Rebecca Atherton, his wife, was born at Amherst, September 15, 1813.

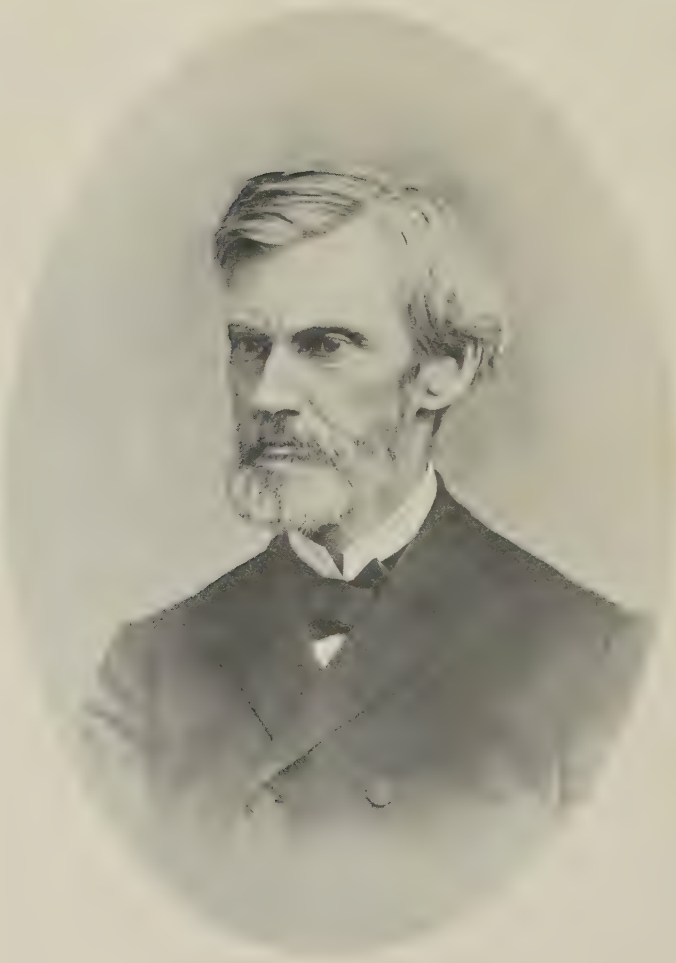
He chose the profession of his father and began the practice of medicine at Nashua in 1837. Soon frequent and urgent calls were made on him for services not less needed than those of the physician.

His ability, uprightness, and promptness in all the affairs of business so multiplied the demands made upon him, that he gave up his successful medical practice and devoted himself to the varied and responsible trusts that demanded all his time and effort. By his sterling worth and conscientious devotion to every interest of the city he won a large and honored place in Nashua, and he made himself a tower of strength to the churches of New Hampshire. He left the record of a faithful, painstaking, generous, Christian life; of a heart loyal to the center to duty and God. He taught in the Sunday-school for fifty years, and was a lover of the Bible; an earnest student of its truths. He felt that it was the book for everybody, and was anxious that all, especially the young, should have it and accept its message.

As he took his last journey he bore books and Bibles with him for the people in whom he had become deeply interested by his repeated labors for their good, and was to have presented them to the Sunday-school the day he died.

For thirty-five years as the honored President of this Society he did all he could for its prosperity.

His interest, judgment, constant attendance upon its meetings, and his personal gifts to it while living, followed by his legacy of five thousand dollars, have linked his name for all time to the beneficent work of the Society. Such a life very largely abides after the body has gone and the work he loved will have new demands upon us who remain, as we bear it along without his presence.



Hon. Isaac W. Smith.

President.
1896 1898.

The Hon. Isaac W. Smith, LL.D., of Manchester, was elected President, and the Rev. Joseph E. Robins, D.D., Vice-President. Hon. John Kimball, Rev. Edwin J. Aiken, and Rev. Franklin Ayer, D.D., were appointed a committee to consider the advisability of amending the act of incorporation, and to prepare for any legislation that might be deemed necessary.

At the annual meeting of the Society held in Concord, June 21, 1897, the committee reported, presenting the amendments made by the legislature at its last session, which report was accepted and its amendments adopted.

THE CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED.

I. The Society shall be called the New Hampshire Bible Society. The sole object of the Society is to promote the more extensive distribution of the Holy Bible. This object is to be invariably pursued, by procuring and distributing gratuitously among the destitute and needy, or selling at reduced prices, according to the discretion of the Board of Directors, Bibles or Testaments, in the English language, of the present received version, without note or comment; and by aiding, in case the funds of the Society shall admit, in translating and printing the Holy Scriptures in other languages, for charitable distribution.

II. The corporate membership of the Society shall consist of such persons as have heretofore paid the sum of thirty dollars for the privilege of becoming life members, and of such persons, residents of New Hampshire, men or women, not exceeding twenty-seven, as may be elected. Not less than one third of the members elected shall be laymen, and one third clergymen. The remaining third may be clergymen or laymen.

The corporate members must be elected by ballot, and only at the annual meetings. Whenever vacancies in the membership occur, caused by death, resignation, removal from the state or otherwise, they shall be filled by the election of new members. No person shall be elected a member after the annual meeting in 1897, unless recommended by the Directors in meeting. Vacancies caused by the death, resignation or otherwise of members who have hitherto become such by the payment of thirty dollars shall not be filled, the purpose being that after all who have become

members by the payment of thirty dollars have ceased to be members, the corporate membership shall consist of those elected to membership, not exceeding at any one time twenty-seven persons. The number of corporate members necessary for transacting business at any meeting of the Society shall be nine.

III. The officers of the society shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and four Directors; the President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary shall ex officio be also Directors, and, together with the other four Directors, shall constitute the Board of Directors. At least two of the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, and two of the Directors, shall be ministers of the gospel. All of said officers, except the Treasurer, shall be chosen annually by ballot, and shall hold their respective offices one year, and until their successors are chosen and qualified. The Treasurer shall be chosen by the Board of Directors, and shall hold his office during their pleasure.

IV. The President, if present, and if not, the oldest Vice-President, and if neither President nor a Vice-President be present, the oldest Director present, shall preside at meetings of the Society and Board of Directors, and shall have the powers and privileges pertaining to the office of presiding officer.

V. The Secretary shall be sworn as required by law, and shall keep a full and complete record of all proceedings of the Society and Board of Directors, in books provided for the purpose. He shall also attend to such of the correspondence of the Society as does not pertain to the office of the Treasurer.

VI. The Treasurer shall give to the Secretary a bond, in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars, with sufficient sureties, for the faithful performance of his duties while he continues in office. He shall receive, invest and disburse all monies belonging to the Society, have the custody of its securities, and keep a full, particular and correct record of all his receipts, investments, and disbursements on account of the Society, in books provided for the purpose; but he shall make no disbursements except under the direction of the Board of Directors.

Rev. Warren R. Cochrane, D.D. was eletecd Vice-President.

The following were elected corporate members of the Society: Hon. Isaac W. Smith, Hon. William M. Chase, Rev. Joseph E. Robins, Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn, Rev. Daniel C. Knowles, and John C. Thorne.

At the eighty-seventh annual meeting of the Society held at the Depository at Concord, June 13, 1898, Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, Secretary, having resigned after twenty years of service Rev. Edwin J. Aiken was elected to fill the vacancy.

Hon. Isaac W. Smith, LL.D., President of the Society since the annual meeting of 1896, died November 28, 1898. Although his connection with the Society was brief, it was very beneficial. He drew the amendments of the Constitution made in 1897, and whenever called upon freely gave the Society the benefit of his legal learning and ripe judgment. He occupied many official positions, all to the satisfaction of the public and with credit to himself. His life was governed by the teachings of the Bible. He took a deep interest in religious matters and was an honor to the church of Christ.

At the eighty-eighth annual meeting held at the Depository in Concord, June 19, 1899, the following named persons were elected corporate members of the Society: Hon. David Cross, LL.D., Rev. Cassander C. Sampson, Rev. William H. Hutchin, Rev. Harry P. Dewey, D.D., Rev. John Vannevar, D.D., Joseph C. A. Hill, William P. Fiske, Howard L. Porter, and Luther W. Durgin.

Hon. David Cross, was elected President. The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That in the decease of President Smith, this Society lost an efficient and honored head, whose interest in its prosperity and success was always warm and abiding; that Dartmouth College lost a valuable trustee and friend; that the Church of Christ was called to part with a pure, earnest and able laborer in its cause; that the community and state were deprived of a citizen whose conspicuous virtues won for him universal respect and confidence.

Resolved, That the memory of such a life is an inspiration to all who knew it to attain to like nobility and goodness of character, and will be tenderly cherished by us who were associated with him in the noble work of this Society.

The canvass work for the years 1896, 1897, 1898, and 1899 as reported was 36,964 families visited, 587 found destitute, and 8,699 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation.

At the eighty-ninth annual meeting held in the Depository at Concord, June 25, 1900, the following named persons were elected corporate members: Rev. George H. Reed, D.D., Rev. Nathaniel H. Colby, D.D., Rev. George W. Gile, D.D., and Rev. Samuel H. McCollester, D.D.

Hon. David Cross and Rev. Edwin J. Aiken were appointed delegates to attend the conference of the representatives of the American Bible Society in New York City, October 10.

Another re-supply of the state was begun, the following named persons being employed: Rev. Joseph H. Brown, Rev. Edward Francis, Franklin S. Wood, Roger A. Dunlap, Kimball K. Clark, and Thomas Francis; and 57,065 families were visited and 548 Protestant families found destitute of the Scriptures; 4,979 copies were distributed, 6,033 copies sent out from the Depository, a total of 11,012 copies of the Scriptures put into circulation during this re-supply of the state. It is impossible for us to measure the results that must follow the distribution of so many copies of the Word and the rich blessings to individuals, the homes and the churches of our commonwealth.

At the ninetieth annual meeting held June 17, 1901, Rev. Edwin W. Bishop, D.D. and Lewis Downing were elected corporate members. The canvass work of the year was continued without delay or haste and abides as good seed sown for the coming harvest.

At the ninety-first annual meeting held at the Depository June 23, 1902, the following named persons were elected corporate members: Hon. Isaac N. Blodgett, LL.D., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. George B. Chandler, Rev. George M. Curl, Rev. Louis H. Buckshorn, and Henry McFarland.

At the annual meeting held June 22, 1903, the following were elected corporate members: Hon. Robert J. Peaslee, Rev. Burton W. Lockhart, D.D., and Dr. Morris Christie.

From 1902 to 1908 but one death occurred among the officers of the Society,—Dea. Moses B. Smith, who died August 29, 1904, at 74 years of age. At the annual meeting in June he was elected a director for the twenty-third time, having served faithfully from 1882. Seldom, if ever, during these years was

he absent from the annual meeting. He took a deep interest in all religious work, was an honored member of the Free Baptist demonination, and devoted to every interest of this Society.

At the annual meeting held June 26, 1905, Rev. Thomas H. Stacy, D.D. and Fred S. Heath were elected corporate members.

The re-supply of the state which was begun during the fall of 1902 and continued for about six years. resulted in visits to 109,190 families, 1,149 of which were found destitute; the distribution of 13,924 copies of the Scriptures and selling of 33,177 copies at the Depository.

The persons employed as colporteurs were Edmund T. Gilman, Rev. DeForest Safford, Rev. William C. Bartlett, Rev. Ezra B. Pike, Rev. John H. Bartlett, Miss Grace H. Hayden, Roger A. Dunlap, Eben L. Poore, James H. Richardson, and Royal Richardson.

William Leeman, Finnish colporteur, visited the Finnish families in Troy, Fitzwilliam, Marlborough, Harrisville, Jaffrey, Milford, Winchester, Newport, Lebanon, Enfield, Concord and Manchester, and supplied them with Scriptures in the Finnish language. Christodolos Michitsos, Greek colporteur, visited among the Greeks and Roumanians in Manchester, finding 3,427 Greeks and 310 Roumanians, and supplied them with the Scriptures.

During the year 1906 the Society received one thousand dollars from five ladies (names not given) with the rquest that it be immediately used for Bible work, either in the state or given for national and world-wide work. The amount was sent to the American Bible Society.

At the ninety-seventh annual meeting held June 22, 1908, Rev. Edwin R. Smith and Rev. Orrison C. Sargent were elected corporate members. The Treasurer reported a gift of one thousand dollars from Mr. Samuel Kidder, of Goffstown, the amount to be funded and the income only to be used in Bible work.

The Secretary's report given at the annual meeting held June 14, 1909 says, At the last annual meeting held June 22, 1908, the

Hon. Lyman D. Stevens was elected to an office for the fiftieth time. He was then walking nearer the line that divides this from the other world than we knew. He died March 26, 1909, at the age of 87 years, 6 months and 6 days. He was first elected an auditor in 1852 and continued in the office most of the time to the day of his death. He was also a Vice-President of the Society during 1859–60.

Mr. Stevens' ability as a lawyer, and his promptness and exactness in all affairs of business, multiplied the demands upon him. His conscientious devotion to every interest entrusted to him won a large and honored place for him in the affairs of both city and state. He occupied many official positions, all to the satisfaction of the public and with credit to himself.

He was a man of strong convictions, and took a deep interest in religious matters. He left the record of a faithful Christian life, of a heart loyal to duty and to God.

The Rev. Jeremiah S. Jewett, a retired Methodist minister, died at Warren, N. H., May 23, 1909. He was not a member of the Society, but was deeply interested in Bible work, and in 1904 gave the Society five hundred dollars to be kept as a fund, the income of which is to be used in its work in New Hampshire. Men die, the workman halts, but the work goes on.

William L. Stevens, Esq. was elected a corporate member of the Society.

The Secretary was a delegate of the American Bible Society to the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh during the month of June, 1910.

The delegates of the Bible Societies attending the Conference were given a reception by the directors of the National Bible Society of Scotland. A number of the representatives, including Lord Kinniard and Sir Andrew Wingate of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the ten delegates of the American Bible Society, and the several delegates from Continental societies were present.

The guests were received by the Right Honorable Sir Andrew H. L. Fraser, president of the National Society, and Lady Fraser.

During 1910 Christodolos Michitsos, Greek colporteur, visited among the Greeks and Roumanians in Nashua, Dover, Somersworth and Rochester in the interests of Bible distribution

Rev. Alfred Langdon Elwyn.

Director, 1897–

and found about three thousand of his nationality and a large number of Roumanians and Syrians. During the year 5,408 copies of the Scriptures were sent out from the Depository.

During the earlier years of work by the Society the Scriptures were sold and donated only in the English tongue. About fifty years ago a demand arose for them in the French and German languages. Today there are in New Hampshire forty-two nationalities and we have in stock at the Depository, for constant use in the canvass work, the Scriptures in twenty-eight foreign tongues; Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Bohemian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Roumanian, Russian, Slavonian, Spanish, Swedish, Syriac, Welsh, and Yiddish. The homes of these nationalities are visited by the colporteur in the interest of Bible distribution, and, so far as permitted, these people are supplied with the message of good tidings in their native tongue. If opportunity is to measure the future work of the Society, the close of the first century of its existence calls for an enlargement of its work, for the Bible has not lost its hold on the hearts and homes of the people.

The one hundredth annual meeting of the Society was held at the Depository in Concord, June 5, 1911. The following named officers were re-elected:

President, Hon. David Cross.

Vice-Presidents, Hon. William M. Chase, Rev. Warren R. Cochrane, Rev. Joseph E. Robins.

Directors, John C. Thorne, Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn, Rev. George M. Curl, Fred S. Heath.

Secretary, Rev. Edwin J. Aiken.

Treasurer, Hon. John Kimball.

Auditors, William L. Stevens, Luther W. Durgin.

William K. McFarland was elected a corporate member of the Society.

The Board of Directors met immediately after the adjournment of the annual meeting and Rev. Edwin J. Aiken was re-elected Superintendent.

The following named persons were appointed a committee to arrange for the Centennial Anniversary: Hon. David Cross,

Hon. William M. Chase, Hon. John Kimball, Rev. George H. Reed, D.D., and Rev. Edwin J. Aiken. It was voted to hold the Centennial Anniversary in the First Congregational Church, Concord, N. H., June 1–3, 1912, and to extend invitations to the Hon. Justice J. Gordon Forbes, Vice-President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, of London, resident at St. John, New Brunswick, to the American Bible Society, to the New England State Bible Societies, to the New York (City) Bible Society, and to such other individuals and Societies as the Committee advise.

The following action was taken, defining the relation which has existed between the New Hampshire Bible Society and the American Bible Society since the organization of the National Society in 1816:

Voted, That the New Hampshire Bible Society has no organic or contractural connection with the American Bible Society, that the connection between the Societies is co-operative and sympathetic, and that the gifts from the State Society to the National Society were the expression of a general charitable purpose toward that Society, and not as a proposition in any way binding the Societies in a contractural sense, that the New Hampshire Bible Society has esteemed it a privilege to contribute to the support of the American Bible Society in its National and world-wide work, and undoubtedly will in the future contribute from its surplus earnings to the support of the work of that Society.

The canvass work of the Society for the year was among the foreign speaking people of the state and largely in the cities of Manchester and Nashua. Colporteurs report that forty nationalities were found in the two cities. A special effort was made to visit the families of the French, and several thousand copies of the Scriptures were placed in their homes.

A Greek colporteur was also in the employ of the Society working among his nationality. The Greek population of the cities has nearly doubled since the canvass of two years ago the present number being about 8,000, and there were found 806 Roumanians, 325 Armenians, 110 Syrians, 52 Albanians and 46 Turks. The needs of the Swedes, Hungarians, Finns, Italians, Armenians and Polanders were looked after throughout the state. The sales and donations of the Society in its work for *nine months* of the fiscal year to March 1, 1912, were 7,139 copies of the Scriptures distributed. This canvass is the third special canvass among the

foreign speaking people of the state made during the past five years.

During the year the Society received a legacy of two thousand and eight hundred dollars from the estate of Mrs. Orra A. R. Coburn, late of Londonderry, also a legacy of five thousand dollars from Miss Sarah W. Kendall, late of Nashua, and also a notice of a legacy of one thousand dollars from Miss Mary A. Hadley, late of Goffstown.

PROGRAM OF THE EXERCISES
OF THE
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY
TO BE HELD IN THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CONCORD, N. H.
June first, second and third.

Saturday, June first
at 2 o'clock p. m.

Gathering of the New England and New York (City) Bible Societies with their invited guests

Address: EDMUND T. GARLAND
Superintendent of the Bible Society of Maine

7.45 p. m.

Address: REV. FREDERICK B. ALLEN
Secretary of the Massachusetts Bible Society

Sunday, June second
10.30 a. m.

Representatives from the Bible Societies as Speakers in the Churches of Concord

7.30 p. m.
UNION SERVICE
AT THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Where the New Hampshire Bible Society was organized,
June 3, 1812

Address: HON. J. GORDON FORBES
Vice-President of the British and Foreign Bible Society of London, England

Address: REV. WILLIAM I. HAVEN, D.D.
Secretary of the American Bible Society

Monday, June third
10.00 a. m.
AT THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY

Devotional Service: REV. GEORGE H. REED, D. D.
Historical Address: REV. EDWIN J. AIKEN
Fraternal Greetings from Representative and Delegates of other Bible Societies
Reports of Secretary and Treasurer
Election of Corporate Members
Election of officers, and the transaction of such other business as may legally come before the Society
Adjournment

The following statistics belong to the story of a hundred years of Bible work in New Hampshire, as illustrative of the service which the Society has rendered to the state, and through the American Bible Society, to the Nation and to the World.

So far as can be ascertained, the amount given in New Hampshire for Bible work, state, national, and world-wide, during the hundred years is $497,261.91, and 653,562 copies of the Scriptures—Bibles and portions thereof—have been put into circulation. Of this number, 11,874 copies costing $11,874.00 were given to life members and 101,405 copies costing $31,776.76 were donated to 27,292 destitute and needy families. The expense of the state work has been $155,657.94.

The sum of $181,564.21 has been sent in donations, legacies, church collections and individual gifts from New Hampshire to the American Bible Society for national and world-wide work and $116,389.00 has been funded. Also $159,421.41 has been paid to the American Bible Society, and $61,523.82 to other parties for books.

INVESTED FUNDS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY, APRIL 1, 1912.

Gov. John Langdon Fund	$1,042.00
Thankful Shepard Fund	1,000.00
Horace A. Haven Fund	1,000.00

Sally Batchelder Fund	$1,000.00
Moses P. Page Fund	2,500.00
Betsey Whitehouse Fund	5,000.00
Jeremiah Straw Fund	1,400.00
Rev. William Richardson Fund	40,000.00
Lucy Spaulding Fund	10,000.00
Sophronia C. Thompson Fund	2,362.00
Lovey A. Lang Fund	500.00
Edward Spalding Fund	5,000.00
Sarah A. Wood Fund	500.00
Lucy B. Richardson Fund	1,225.00
Mary W. Thompson Fund	500.00
Dea. James Boyd Fund	8,500.00
Gov. Frederick Smythe Fund	1,000.00
Josephine E. Boylston Fund	1,000.00
Phebe M. Lane Fund	600.00
Dorcas Emerson Fund	400.00
Dea. Abel C. Crosby Fund	300.00
Ambrose Gould Fund	610.00
Persis S. Wilson Fund	1,150.00
Rev. Jeremiah S. Jewett Fund	500.00
Andrew N. Shepard Fund	3,000.00
Jacob Gould Fund	300.00
Mrs. William G. Brown Fund	100.00
Dea. William G. Brown Fund	3,000.00
Mrs. E. A. Morrill Fund	900.00
Samuel Kidder Fund	1,000.00
John H. Upham Fund	200.00
Mrs. Orra A. R. Coburn Fund	2,800.00
Sarah W. Kendall Fund	5,000.00
General Fund	13,000.00
Total	$116,389.00

The invested funds now belonging to the Society were received mostly by legacies and gifts. No losses have been suffered, but on the other hand, the fund has increased somewhat by reason of being invested in securities that have appreciated while held by the Society.

Three legacies received during the earlier years, and forwarded to the American Bible Society, have been replaced from the income of the Society and now appear among the invested funds, namely: those of Gov. John Langdon, Mrs. Thankful Shepard, and Horace Appleton Haven. The Moses P. Page Fund, the Rev. Jeremiah S. Jewett Fund, and the Samuel Kidder Fund were gifts while the donors were living.

The Dea. William G. Brown Fund was contributed by his friends as a memorial of his work in behalf of the Society. The General Fund represents a large number of legacies too small to be listed separately.

THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY, ELECTED JUNE 3, 1812.

President.
His Excellency, Governor John Langdon.

Vice-President.
Rev. Seth Payson, D.D.

Secretary.
Rev. John H. Church, D.D.

Treasurer.
Jonathan Wilkins, Esq.,

Directors.

Daniel Emerson, Esq. — Major John Mills,
Rev. John Smith, — Rev. Fred Paige.

Auditors.

Rev. Abraham Burnham, — Deacon Abiel Rolfe.

OFFICERS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY, ELECTED FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1912.

President.
Hon. David Cross, LL.D.

Vice-Presidents.
Hon. William M. Chase, LL. D. — Rev. Warren R. Cochrane, D.D.
Rev. Joseph E. Robins, D.D.

Directors.

John C. Thorne, — Rev. George M. Curl,
Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn, — Fred S. Heath.

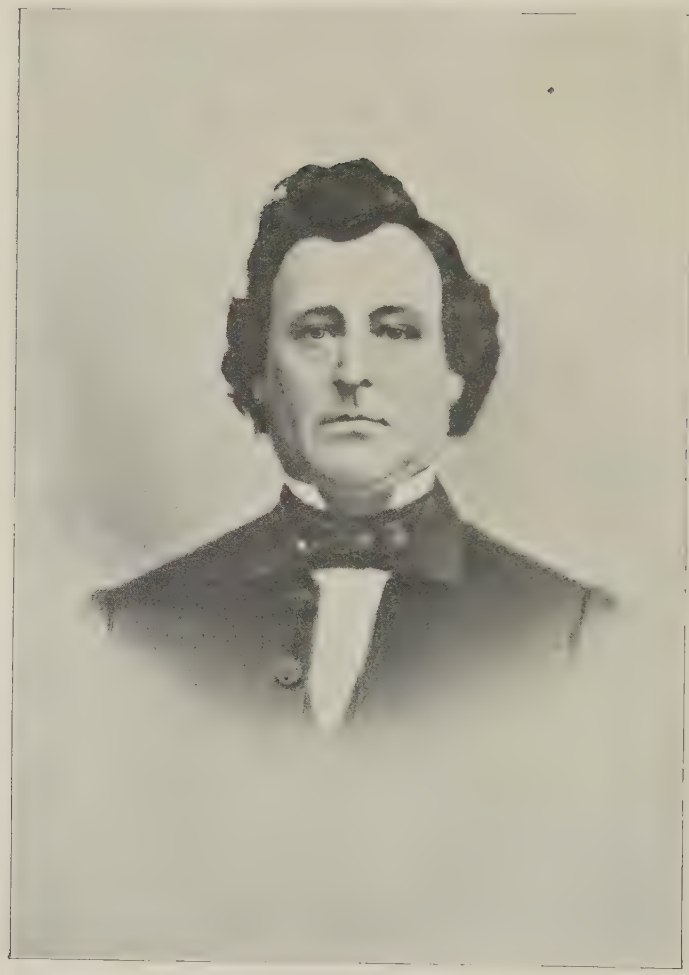
Secretary.
Rev. Edwin J. Aiken,

Treasurer.
Hon. John Kimball.

Superintendent.
Rev. Edwin J. Aiken,

Auditors.

William L. Stevens, — Luther W. Durgin,



Rev. Elisha Adams, D.D.

Director, 1858–1860; 1868–1878.
Vice-President, 1878–1881.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FROM 1812 TO 1912.

Presidents.

His Excellency Governor John Langdon, LL.D.	1812–14
Hon. Timothy Farrar	1814–17
Hon. Robert Means	1817–18
Prof. Ebenezer Adams	1818–41
Hon. Daniel Adams	1841–60
Hon. Edward Spalding, LL.D	1860–95
Hon. Isaac W. Smith, LL.D.	1896–98
Hon. David Cross, LL.D.	1899–

Vice-Presidents.

Rev. Seth Payson, D.D	1812–20
Ebenezer Adams	1813–18
Rev. Nathan Parker, D.D.	1813–15
Rev. Fred Paige	1815–16
Rev. John Kelley	1816–23
Dea. Amos Tappan	1818–20
Gov. David L. Morrill	1820–29
Joseph Haven	1820–21
Hon. Edmund Parker	1821–33
Rev. Daniel Dana, D.D.	1823–26
Rev. Charles Burroughs	1826–33
Rev. John H. Church, D.D.	1829–38
Hon. Joel Parker, LL.D.	1833–34
Rev. Israel W. Putnam, D.D.	1833–35
Gov. William Badger	1834–41
Rev. John Woods	1835–52
Rev. Z. S.Barstow, D.D.	1838-50
Hon. John Folsom	1841–47
Gen. Robert Davis	1847–52
Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D.	1850–52
Rev. Nathan Lord, D.D., LL.D.	1852–63
Samuel Fletcher	1852-59
Richard Boylston	1852–55
Bishop Osman C. Baker, D.D.	1855–72
Hon. Lyman D. Stevens	1859–60
Gov. Matthew Harvey	1860–66
Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D.	1863–72
Rev. Ebenezer E. Cummings, D.D.	1866–80
Rev. James Pike	1872–75
Rev. Silas L. Blake, D.D.	1873–75
Rev. Frederick Alvord	1875–78
Rev. Daniel J. Smith	1875–76
Rev. James Thurston	1876–78
Rev. Elisha Adams, D.D.	1878–81
Rev. Edward Robie, D.D.	1878–79

Rev. Isaac Willey	1879–81
Rev. Silas Curtis	1880–93
Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D.	1881–83
Hon. Jonathan E. Sargent, LL.D.	1881–90
Rev. Sullivan Holman	1883–88
Rev. Samuel C. Keeler	1888–96
Hon. William M. Chase	1890–
Rev. James K. Ewer	1893–94
Rev. Ashael S. Gilbert	1894–97
Rev. Joseph E. Robins, D.D.	1896–
Rev. Warren R. Cochrane, D.D	1897–

Secretaries.

Rev. John H. Church, D.D.	1812–24
Rev. Nathan Lord, D.D., LL.D.	1824–28
Rev. Daniel Lancaster	1828–41
Rev. Joseph Lane	1841–50
Rev. Isaac Willey	1850–75
Rev. Silas L. Blake, D.D.	1875–78
Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D.D	1878–98
Rev. Edwin J. Aiken	1898–

Treasurers.

Jonathan Wilkins	1812–14
George Hough	1814–21
Nathaniel Abbott	1821–30
Asaph Evans	1830–38
Dr. Thomas Chadbourne	1838–50
Henry A. Newhall	1850–54
Rev. Benjamin P. Stone, D.D.	1854–71
Dea. Hazen Pickering	1871–71
Hon. John Kimball, A.M	1871–

Directors.

Daniel Emerson	1812–21
Rev. John Smith, D.D.	1812–18
Maj. John Mills	1812–19
Rev. Fred Paige	1812–15
Rev. Stephen Chapin, D.D.	1815–19
Rev. Jonathan French, D.D.	1818–31
George Woodman	1819–22
Rev. Nathan Lord, D.D., LL.D.	1819–24
Joseph Colby	1821–24
Samuel Fletcher	1822–28
Rev. John H. Church, D.D.	1824–29
Joshua Darling	1824–25
Stephen Goodhue	1825–27

Samuel L. Wilder	1827–28
Hon. Samuel Morrill	1828–33
Andrew Bowers	1828–29
Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D.	1829–33
Newton Whittlesey	1829–30
Ebenezer Wheelwright	1830–31
Rev. Calvin Cutler	1831–33
Hon. John Vose	1831–33
Rev. John Woods	1833–35
Rev. Archibald Burgess	1833–49
Elijah Parker	1833–34
Ormond Dutton	1833–34
Jonathan Cummings	1834–49
Stephen C. Lyford	1834–35
Rev. Calvin Cutler	1835–39
Samuel Fletcher	1839–42
Rev. John Jones	1841–43
Rev. Elisha Adams, D.D.	1868–78
Rev. Silas Curtis	1870–80
Rev. Cyrus W. Wallace, D.D.	1871–73
Rev. Edward G. Selden	1875–78
Rev. William J. Tucker, D.D.	1873–75
Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D.D	1875–78
Rev. William H. Alden, D.D.	1878–79
Rev. Charles E. Harrington, D.D.	1878–82
Rev. William Elkins	1878–79
Rev. E. C. Spinney	1879–80
Rev. E. C. Bass	1879–81
Rev. William V. Garner	1880–84
Dea. Frederick S. Crawford	1880–81
Rev. DeWitt C. Durgin, D.D.	1866–70
Richard Boylston	1835–39
Rev. Asa P. Tenney	1839–41
Nathaniel Abbott	1842–44
Rev. S. L. McCurdy	1843–44
Rev. Eleazer Smith	1844–50
Hon. Nathaniel S. Berry	1848–50
Rev. Jonathan McGee	1849–52
Dea. A. K. Merrill	1849–50
Prof. John Dempster, D.D.	1850–51
Dr. Thomas Chadbourne	1840–54
Hon. Alvah Smith	1850–51
Rev. Eleazer Smith	1851–52
Rev. J. H. Merrill	1851–52
Rev. Osman C. Baker, D.D.	1852–55
Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D.	1852–58
Dea. J. A. Wheat	1852–55
Henry A. Newhall	1854–56

Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett, D.D.	1855–57
Dea. William G. Brown	1855–71
Dr. Thomas Chadbourne,	1856–61
Rev. Cyrus W. Wallace, D.D.	1857–61
Rev. Elisha Adams	1858–60
Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D.	1860–63
Rev. William T. Savage, D.D.	1861–75
Rev. N. M. Bailey	1861–62
Rev. Josiah P. Nutting	1862–63
Rev. C. W. Flanders, D.D.	1863–66
Rev. C. O. Libbey	1863–66
Rev. Nathaniel Chase	1866–68
Rev. Sullivan Holman	1881–83
Dea. John C. Thorne	1881–
Dea. Moses B. Smith	1882–1904
Rev. George W. Norris	1883–91
Dea. Abraham A. Prescott	1884–88
Rev. James K. Ewer	1888–93
Rev. Joseph E. Robins, D.D.	1891–96
Rev. Warren R. Cochrane, D.D.	1893–96
Rev. George M. Curl	1896–97
Rev. Daniel C. Knowles D.D.	1897–1900
Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn	1897–
Rev. William H. Hutchin	1900–05
Rev. George M. Curl	1905–11
Fred S. Heath	1905–

Superintendents.

Dea. William G. Brown	1877–92
Rev. Edwin J. Aiken	1892–

The list of the executive officers of the Society includes five governors, seven judges, three presidents of Dartmouth College, college professors, clergymen from all the larger denominations, lawyers of high repute, and men prominent in the business, political and social life of the state, and all served the Society with zeal and fidelity. The number of years of service rendered by the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers can be found in the foregoing pages.

The following named Directors have each rendered faithful service for five or more years: Daniel Emerson, Rev. John Smith, D.D., Maj. John Mills, Rev. Jonathan French, D.D., Rev. Nathan Lord, D.D., LL.D., Rev. John H. Church, D.D., Hon. Samuel Morrill, Rev. Archibald Burgess, Jonathan Cummings, Rev. Elisha Adams, D.D., Rev. Silas Curtis, D.D., Rev. Charles

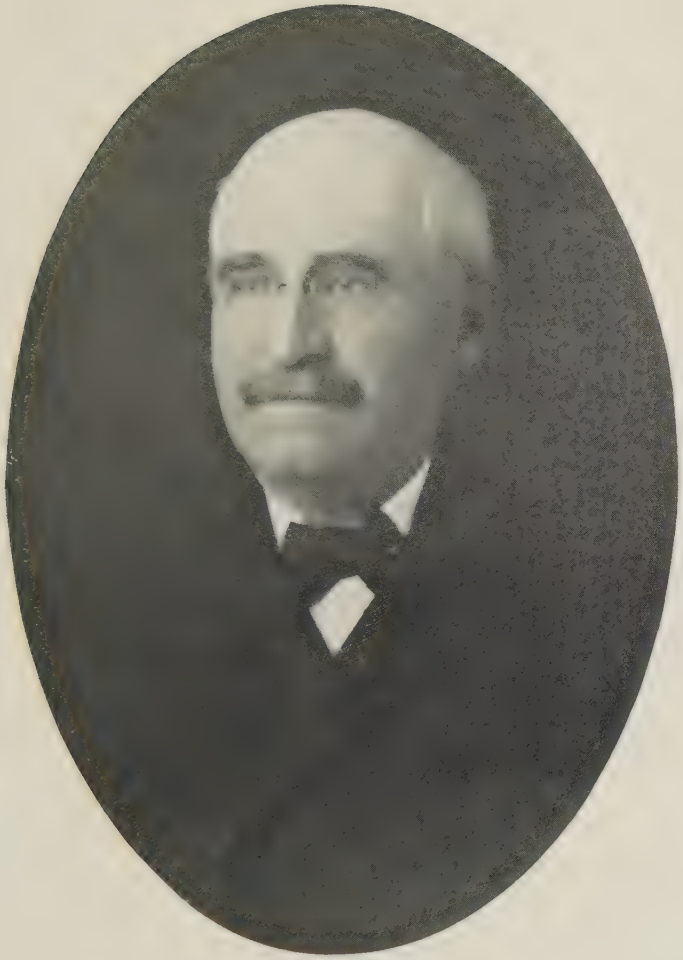
E. Harrington, D.D., Rev. DeWitt C. Durgin, D.D., Dr. Thomas Chadbourne, Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, D.D., Dea. John C. Thorne, Dea. William G. Brown, Rev. Cyrus W. Wallace, D.D., Dea. Moses B. Smith, Rev. George W. Norris, Rev. James K. Ewer, Rev. Joseph E. Robins, D.D., Rev. George M. Curl, Rev. Alfred Elwyn, Rev. William H. Hutchin, and Fred S. Heath. Dea. John C. Thorne has filled the office of a director the longest number of years, having been elected in 1881 and still remains in office.

The New Hampshire Bible Society has had one thousand and five annual members, and one thousand and eighty-three life members. The last annual member of the Society, Mrs. E. G. Green, of Pembroke, died during 1904. Seventy-four of the life members are now living. The corporate members of the Society elected under the charter of 1897, number twenty-two.

LIFE MEMBERS 1912.

Aiken, Rev. E. J. . . . . Concord
Aiken, Mrs. E. J. . . . . Concord
Andrews, Frank P. . . . . Concord
Andrews, Marianna. . . . . Chester, Vt.
Avann, Rev. J. W. . . . . Gary, Ind.
Ayer, Rev. Franklin D., D.D. . . . . Concord
Bayard, Mrs. Mary A. . . . . Deerfield
Bell, Eliza U. . . . . Exeter
Chase, Mrs. Nellie S. . . . . Northfield
Cilley, Rev. Moses T. . . . . Merrimackport, Mass.
Colby, Rev. Nathaniel L. . . . . Manchester
Conn, Dr. Granville P. . . . . Concord
Conway, Mrs. A. L. L. . . . . Address unknown
Corser, Clara G. . . . . Lebanon
Cromack, Emma M. . . . . Rochester
Cross, Mrs. Alvin B. . . . . Concord
Dudley, Mrs. Daniel W. . . . . Newport
Durrell, Rev. Jesse M., D.D. . . . . Tilton
Eaton, Luther P. . . . . Harrisville
Elliott, Henry S. . . . . Concord
Elwyn, Rev. Alfred L. . . . . Portsmouth
Emerson, Mrs. George. . . . . Muskegon, Mich.
Forrest, Honora A. . . . . Tilton
Forrest, Josephine M. . . . . Tilton
Forreeto, Sarah E. . . . . Merrimack
Gage, Mabel C. . . . . Concord
Gerould, Mrs. Laura E. . . . . Goffstown

Goodwin, Joseph S. . . . . Londonderry
Hale, Mrs. W. S. . . . . Keene
Hannaford, Emilie A. . . . . Peterboro
Hatch, Ellen E. . . . . Merrimack
Harrington, Rev. Charles E. . . . . Holliston, Mass.
Hartshorn, Franklin . . . . . Amherst
Hartshorn, Mrs. E. P. . . . . Amherst
Hartshorn, Hattie M. . . . . Amherst
Hartshorn, Levi . . . . . Amherst
Hill, William H. . . . . Keene
Hoffman, Mrs. H. S. . . . . Henniker
Holbrook, Mrs. George . . . . . Manchester
Kenyon, William O. . . . . Plainfield
Kimball, John . . . . . Concord
Langdon, Mrs. Elizabeth Elwyn . . . . . Portsmouth
Littlefield, Anna M. . . . . New London
Marston, Laura A. . . . . Deerfield
Minot, Mrs. Fanny E. . . . . Concord
Morey, Thomas P. . . . . Lowell, Mass.
Morrill, Albro . . . . . Tilton
Morrill, Robert . . . . . Canterbury
Morrill, Bert Smith . . . . . Canterbury
Morrill, Obe . . . . . Northfield
Noyes, Mrs. H. S. . . . . Chester
Noyes, Mary Belle . . . . . Chester
Partridge, Mrs. Susan E. . . . . Winchendon, Mass.
Pettingill, Flora M. . . . . Loudon
Putnam, Mrs. A. S. K. . . . . Wilton
Quimby, Rev. Silas E. . . . . Tilton
Richardson, Mrs. Mary R. . . . . Dublin
Richardson, Joshua . . . . . Dublin
Richardson, Mrs. N. H. . . . . Lancaster
Robertson, Mrs. Belle W. . . . . Northfield
Robie, Rev. Edward, D. D. . . . . Greenland
Roy, Mrs. Mabel E. . . . . Northfield
Sanborn, Katie . . . . . Northfield
Scribner, Celia . . . . . Newport
Stevens, Mrs. J. E. Hoyt . . . . . Concord
Tenney, Rev. Edward P. . . . . Manchester, Mass.
Ward, Rev. Arthur N. . . . . Somerville, Mass.
Webster, Daniel D. . . . . Boscawen
Weeks, Ellen M. . . . . Greenland
Wilkins, Mrs. Lucy A. . . . . Amherst
Willey, Mary C. . . . . San Francisco, Cal.
Wood, Mary J. . . . . Francestown
Wyatt, Mrs. Sarah J. . . . . Tilton
Young, Mrs. Ida E. . . . . Deerfield



Rev. Edwin J. Aiken.

Superintendent, 1892
Secretary, 1898 1912

CORPORATE MEMBERS 1912.

Buckshorn, Rev. Louis H.....Concord
Chase, Hon. William M.....Concord
Colby, Rev. Nathaniel L.....Manchester
Cross, Hon. David.....Manchester
Durgin, Luther W.....Concord
Elwyn, Rev. Alfred L.....Portsmouth
Fiske, William P.....Concord
Heath, Fred S.....Concord
Knowles, Rev. Daniel C., D.D.....Tilton
Lockhart, Rev. Burton W., D.D.....Manchester
McCollester, Rev. Samuel H., D.D.....Marlboro
McFarland, William K.....Concord
Peaslee, Hon. Robert J.....Manchester
Reed, Rev. George H., D.D.....Concord
Robins, Rev. Joseph E., D.D.....Peterboro
Sampson, Rev. Cassander C.....Tilton
Sargent, Rev. Orrison C.....Concord
Smith, Rev. Edwin R.....Concord
Stacy, Rev. Thomas H., D.D.....Concord
Stevens, William L.....Concord
Thorne, John C.....Concord
Vannevar, Rev. John, D.D.....Concord

COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETIES.

The first mention of County Bible Societies as independent organizations with auxiliary relations to the State Society is made in the annual report of 1815. The Board of Directors at a meeting held in Hollis, Oct. 26, voted, "That measures be taken to form County Auxiliary Bible Societies."

The Cheshire County Society, with Hon. Levi Jackson as President, was organized Oct. 17, 1816; the Hillsborough County Society, with Hon. David L. Morrill as President June 3, 1817. The Rockingham County Charitable Society, with Hon. Oliver Peabody as President, was organized April 30, 1817; and the Grafton County Charitable Society in 1818; and later in 1830 these two Charitable Societies were re-organized as County Bible Societies.

These Societies voted to assist the State Society by appointing agents in each town for the searching for destitute families, for the distribution of the Scriptures, and to solicit contribution for state Bible work. The Sullivan County Society was organ

ized during 1823, and the Strafford County Society, with Rev. Samuel Hidden as President, June 5, 1827.

For many years the Bible work in Merrimack County was done by the Hopkinton Association of Congregational ministers. Large sums of money were raised for the State Society and destitute families were sought and supplied. Town societies were organized throughout the County and each local society had its agent.

The Merrimack County Union Bible Society was organized during 1845; the Carroll County Society, with Rev. John Chick as President, October 11, 1859; the Coös County Society, with the Hon. Turner Stephenson as President, October 19; and the Belknap County Society, with Col. Rufus G. Lewis as President, December 27 of the same year. Strafford County Society, with Hon. Asa Freeman as President, was re-organized at Dover, January 24, 1860.

A great interest was maintained in these County organizations for many years, largely due to the earnest and untiring efforts of Dea. William G. Brown, and the constant attendance upon the annual meetings of the Societies by Rev. Isaac Willey, Secretary of the State Society from 1850 to 1875, and the Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, Secretary from 1878 to 1898.

In order that more people might attend the meetings, the larger Counties were divided. During 1860 Grafton County was divided into Grafton West Bible Society, with Dea. Abel K. Merrill as President, February 1, and Grafton East, with His Excellency Nathaniel S. Berry as President, February 22, and a Society was formed March 20, called the Coös and North Grafton County, with Dea. Willard King as President. A Society was organized June 6, farther north, with Rev. Henry M. Bridge as President, called the Bible Society of Colebrook and vicinity. Two Societies were formed in Rockingham County to be known as the Rockingham County East, with the Hon. Ichabod Goodwin as President, March 27, and Rockingham County West Bible Society, with Dr. Ira Watson as President, December 3, 1861.

Hillsborough County was divided, and Hillsborough County North with Moses Sawyer as President, organized May 21, 1862, and Hillsborough County South, with Dr. Hezekiah Eldridge as President, March 24, 1863. The Sullivan County Society was re-organized with Hon. Dexter Richards as President, November

4, 1865. Merrimack County was divided, and the Kearsarge Bible Society, with Rev. Edward Buxton as President, was organized September 26, 1865, and the Suncock Bible Society, with the Hon. Richard P. J. Tenney, M.D. as President, September 12, 1868.

January 1, 1885 there were fifteen county and local Bible societies in the state. Many prominent men and clergymen from all denominations with other Christian workers were connected with these societies. The annual meetings were held in different places each year to afford an opportunity for the neighboring citizens and their children to attend them and become interested in Bible work.

With the death of William G. Brown, Superintendent, April 5, 1892, and the resignation of Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, as Secretary of the State Society June 13, 1898, the interest in the County Society meetings began to wane. County Associations of religious workers along other lines of effort were organized, and it was thought best for the County Bible Society organizations to withdraw from active service. A number of the societies united with the County Sunday School Associations, and for years these bodies worked together. Other societies voted to continue their organizations, but to discontinue the annual gatherings. The seventy-five years of work done by the larger part of the County Societies served to keep alive in the hearts of thousands an interest in Bible work in the state, in the nation, and in the world. The meetings brought together warm Christian hearts from different denominations, and were occasions of pleasant social reunions, and for many years were the only interdenominational religious gatherings in the state.

The names of the early organizers of the County Bible Societies in New Hampshire are not given in the annual reports of the State Society, but probably it was the work of Rev. John H. Church, D.D., of Pelham, and Rev. Seth Payson, D.D., of Rindge. Rev. Isaac Willey, for twenty-five years the Secretary of the State Society, re-organized many of the societies and did much to continue their existence. But to Dea. William G. Brown, who for forty-four years was a colporteur, and for fifteen of the years the Superintendent of the State Society, more than to any other, belongs the credit of the long continued and faithful service rendered by the County Bible Societies.

LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

The annual reports of the New Hampshire Bible Society show that the Female Cent Institutions organized by Mrs. Elizabeth K. McFarland in 1804 were a great source of income to the state Society during the earlier years of its existence. From 1812 to the formation of the Female Bible Associations in 1824 their contributions to Bible work amounted to about one thousand dollars, and for more than twenty-five years the Cent Institutions continued this work of benevolence.

The following resolution was presented and adopted at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Bible Society held September 8, 1824:

Resolved, That this Society hear with peculiar pleasure of the formation and utility of Bible Associations, especially among females, and earnestly hope that they may be formed in every town in New Hampshire, and be the means of promoting the circulation of the Bible extensively throughout the state, throughout the country, and throughout the world.

Voted, That the Directors be requested to take measures for carrying into effect this resolution.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors it was voted, That the Prudential Committee, Rev. John H. Church, Hon. Edmund Parker, and Rev. Nathan Lord, be authorized to appoint agents for carrying the resolution into effect. The Rev. Jeremiah Stow was engaged for this special work. He began with Strafford and Hillsborough Counties and in almost every town succeeded in forming one or more associations.

Mr. Stow seems to have been a very judicious man. He worked among all denominations of Christians and all were found ready to co-operate in the great object of his mission. Another agent, Mr. Samuel Delano, was employed in Grafton and Coös Counties, and he also executed his trust with fidelity and success. During four months of the year 1824, they formed fifty-one associations, and contributions amounting to $523.29 were received. The second year the number had increased to seventy-six, and in 1828 to one hundred thirty-eight, the largest number organized in the state. During this year contributions amounting to $967.00 were sent to the state Society.

The following towns reported Ladies' Bible Associations in

THE MEETING HOUSE, CONCORD, N. H.,
Where the New Hampshire Bible Society was organized June 3d, 1812.

1828: Alstead, Alton, Amherst, Andover, Antrim, Atkinson, Barnstead, Barrington, Bath, Bedford, Bethlehem, East Boscawen, West Boscawen, Bow, Bradford, Brentwood, Bristol, Brookfield, Brookline, Candia, Canterbury, Center Harbor, Charlestown, Chester, Chichester, Claremont, Colebrook, Columbia, Concord, Dalton, Danbury, Deerfield, Deering, Derry, Dover, Dublin, Dunbarton, Durham, Epping, Epsom, Exeter, Fitzwilliam, Francestown, Gilford, Gilford and Meredith, Gilmanton First, Gilmanton Village, Gilmanton Lower, Gilsum, Goffstown, Goshen, Greenfield, Greenland, Hampstead, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Hancock, Hanover, Haverhill, Henniker, Hillsborough, Hollis, Hooksett, Hopkinton, Jaffrey, Jefferson, Keene, Kensington, Kingston, Lancaster, Langdon, Litchfield, Littleton, Lempster, Loudon, Lyndeborough, Madbury, Marlboro, Mason, Meredith Bridge, Meredith Village, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, Moultonboro, Nelson, New Boston, New Hampton, New Ipswich, New London, Newmarket, Newport, Northfield, North Hampton, Northwood, Orange, Ossipee North, Ossipee South, Orford First, Orford Second, Pelham, Peterboro, Plaistow, Poplin (Fremont), Portsmouth, Raymond, Richmond, Rindge, Rochester, Roxbury, Rumney, Rye, Salem, Salisbury, Sandwich, Stewartstown, Stoddard, Strafford, Stratham, Sullivan, Surry, Sutton, Tamworth, Temple, Troy, Tuftonborough Wakefield, Walpole, Warner, Washington, Weare, Westmoreland, Whitefield, Wilmot, Wilton, Winchester, Windham, Wolfeborough.

The Bible Associations were auxiliary to the state Society and were considered a strong working force. They raised large sums of money for a number of years which were paid into its treasury. Twenty-five years later, in 1849, we find the number of Ladies' Associations mentioned in the annual report to be fourteen, though many other associations continued their organizations.

In 1874 the number reported was six, and in 1899, the Woman's Bible Society of Deerfield was the only one reported. It was organized in 1827. This association still continues an auxiliary of the state Society, having a membership of seventy-five. The following are its officers: President Miss Laura A. Marston; Vice-President, Mrs. Flora Batchelder; Secretary and Treasurer Mrs. Mary E. Bayard. The President and Secretary have each

served in these offices twenty-three years, and the Vice-President, fifteen years.

COLPORTAGE WORK.

During the century the New Hampshire Bible Society has not been satisfied simply to meet the demands coming to it, but have employed faithful men to seek out opportunities to place the Bible in the homes of the state. The County Bible Societies, Ladies' Bible Auxiliaries, town agents and pastors of the churches looked after and reported the needs of their respective fields, and local depositories were opened in the cities and large villages. The first annual report printed in less than four months after the organization of the state Society reports twenty depositories, or places for Bible distribution. In 1817 the depositories had increased to forty-seven, and in 1828 the number of distributing agents to one hundred and seventy-two. In 1830 the state was divided into districts and fifty-one clergymen appointed to "address the inhabitants of their several districts on the subject of Bible operations, to request all to aid in the special efforts, to assemble and encourage Ladies' Associations, to revive languishing ones, to organize new ones, and to ascertain whether the destitute had in all cases been found and supplied." This method of Bible distribution seems to have been discontinued about 1840 and only County Bible Societies continued their depositories.

It was in 1841 that colportage work was begun under the management of the State Society. At first colporteurs were employed only a part of the time each year. We have this report as the result of the first year's work: The following towns have been visited and supplied, viz: Goshen, 12 Bibles, 80 Testaments; Grantham, 15 Bibles, 18 Testaments; Unity, 5 Bibles, 42 Testaments; Washington, 12 Bibles, 75 Testaments; Wendell (Sunapee), 21 Bibles, 106 Testaments; Meriden Parish, 6 Bibles, 35 Testaments; Lempster, 13 Bibles, 32 Testaments; Charlestown, 10 Bibles, 52 Testaments; Newport, 32 Bibles, 76 Testaments of which 21 Bibles and 25 Testaments were donated.

Jonathan Cummings, of Plymouth, in a report for 1842 says, "Three years ago I pledged myself for a supply of Grafton

County, and can now say I have redeemed this pledge, with the exception of a few towns, and these are in the train of completion." No figures were then given, but later he reported eleven hundred Bibles and Testaments sold and four hundred and thirty-one donated, and one hundred and thirty-two destitute families found.

Mr. Nathaniel Cross, with Mrs. Cross, from Portland, Me., spent three years in New Hampshire at their own expense in distributing the Scriptures among the poor and destitute in Carrol, Grafton and Coös Counties, and in organizing Sunday Schools.

During the next seven years several agents canvassed in different sections of the state, and among the number the longest in the employ of the Society were Jonathan Cummings, Rev. Abel Levings, Rev. Chester W. Levings, Rev. Charles S. Chase, and Dea. John S. R. Brown.

It was during 1848 that Dea. William G. Brown entered the employ of the Society. He continued in the service forty-four years and his many reports were replete with items of humor and of interest. After forty years of service he says of his work, "I have labored in the 'wilderness' of New Hampshire forty years in the distribution of the Bible for the Bible Society. I have found more than forty-seven hundred Protestant families without the Bible and have put into circulation more than one hundred thousand copies of the blessed Book."

From 1848 to 1892 the state was canvassed eleven times under the immediate supervision of Deacon Brown and every family in the state was supposed to have been visited during each canvass.

During these years there were upwards of fifty men employed as colporteurs, thirty-six of the number being clergymen, and the four continuing in the service of the Society for more than twenty years were Rev. Joseph H. Brown of the Methodist Episcopal Conference, Rev. Edmund T. Gilman of Ossipee, Dea. Charles H. Tillotson of Orford, and Franklin S. Wood, of Keene.

In 1870 there were eighteen County and local Bible Depositories in the state and during 1892 these were closed and the books returned to the State Depository in Concord, and a mail

order system established by which books were delivered in every part of the state by mail or express without additional expense to the purchaser, a system by which Bibles are now sent not only to the homes of New Hampshire but into about every state in the Union and into foreign lands.

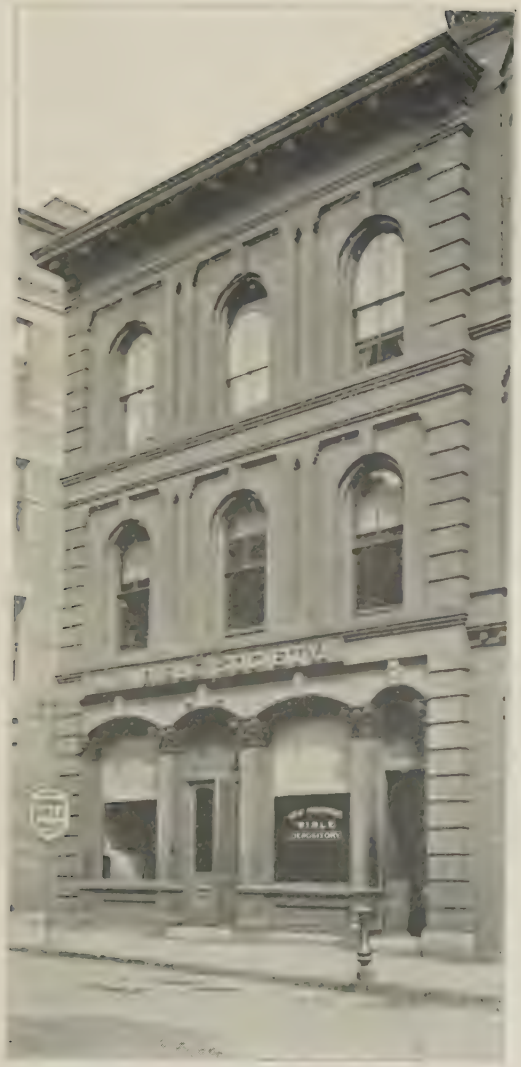
From 1892 to 1912 the state was canvassed four times, and in addition to the regular state work, the manufacturing cities were canvassed twice. Also a special canvass among the foreign speaking people was made in 1907 another in 1910 a third in 1912 and the following nationalities were found: Albanians, Armenians, Bohemians, Bulgarians, Chinese, Finns, French, Germans, Greeks, Hungarians, Italians, Poles, Portuguese, Roumanians, Russians, Swedes, Syrians and Turks, and all were supplied with the Scriptures in their mother tongue, so far as they were willing to receive them.

It is the purpose of the Society to make a complete canvass of the state every five years and a special canvass of the manufacturing cities and villages, and among the foreign speaking people as the need seems to require.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH GRATITUDE AND WITH THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

We have reviewed the past at this end of the century so rich with blessings and yet so eventful in momentous changes, and now set our faces toward the future. While the past is secure, we cannot tell what the future has in store for the Society. "A hundred years are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

The Bible remains and it is incontestably alive today. It is the only book which proclaims the everlasting gospel of redemption and the resurrection, and it is the book this Society exists to circulate, and if at the end of another century our successors gather together, we may be confident that whatever else on earth has waxed old and passed away, the Bible will be reigning and conquering by its revelation of the Father, and of His Son, the Christ.



NEW HAMPSHIRE BIBLE SOCIETY DEPOSITORY.

No. 6 School Street, Concord, N. H.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

Hon. John Langdon, the first President of the New Hampshire Bible Society, was born on the ancestral farm in Portsmouth, N. H., on June 25, 1741. He learned the trade of ship-building and first came into public life as a selectman. Paul Revere was in Portsmouth, December 13 or 14, 1774, with a letter from the Boston Committee of Safety to the Committee at Portsmouth, and in anticipation of the war of the Revolution a party, headed by John Langdon and John Sullivan, captured Fort William and Mary at Newcastle, December 15, and removed the powder to the Congregational Church in Durham. It was with this powder that the patriots fought the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Mr. Langdon was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress of 1775 76 which met in Philadelphia and issued the Declaration of Independence, but his name is not signed to the document because at the request of President John Hancock, he had previously returned to his home to build a ship for the Government. He built the *Ranger* of which Captain John Paul Jones took command.

July 10, 1776, he was commissioned a Captain by Governor Meshech Weare, and during 1777 he served in the field being present at the Battles of Bennington, Saratoga, and Newport.

He was elected a State Senator in 1784 and 1785, and was re-elected in 1786, but resigned. He was President of New Hampshire under the constitution of 1784, and for the year 1785–86, and the year 1788 89. He was a delegate to the convention which framed the National Constitution, a signer of it, and a delegate to the New Hampshire State Convention which first met at the Court House in Exeter February 13, 1788, and which accepted the Constitution at the adjourned meeting held at the Meeting House in Concord, June 18. He was the first United States Senator from New Hampshire and continued in the office until 1801. He was chosen President of the Senate and presided over it for the few weeks before Vice-President John Adams took the chair, and had the honor of announcing to General George Washington his election as President of the United States.

He was Governor of New Hampshire under the Constitution of 1792 for the years 1805 to 1809, and from 1810 to 1812. He was elected the first President of the New Hampshire Bible So-

ciety on June 3, 1812, and continued in office until September 1814, when he declined re-election.

Late in life he became a member of the North Congregational Church at Portsmouth, N. H., under the pastorate of Rev. Joseph Buckminster, D.D. A tablet in his memory was placed in the vestibule of the church by his great-grandson, the Rev. Alfred Langdon Elwyn. Governor John Langdon's only child, Elizabeth, married Thomas Elwyn, of Canterbury in England, who became a resident of Portsmouth, N. H., and a citizen of the United States. Thomas Elwyn and Mrs. Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn were for many years members of the New Hampshire Bible Society.

Hon. Timothy Farrar, the second President of the Society, was born in New Ipswich, N. H., June 28, 1747. He was a graduate of Harvard College and for more than forty successive years from 1775 held the office of Judge in the Supreme and Common Pleas Courts of New Hampshire. He was four times elected a member of the Board of Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, and in 1804 was appointed a Trustee of Dartmouth College, which office he held for over thirty years. He was elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the third annual meeting held at Hanover, September 21, 1814, and remained in office three years. He lived to attain the age of one hundred and one years, seven months and twelve days, and died February 21, 1849.

Hon. Robert Means, the third President of the Society was born in Amherst, N. H., January 23, 1786; graduated from Bowdoin College in 1807; practiced law in Amherst until 1831, when he removed to Lowell, Mass., where he died September 26, 1842. He was a member of the Congregational Church in Amherst. He was elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the sixth annual meeting held in Exeter, September 17, 1817, and remained in office one year.

Prof. Ebenezer Adams, the fourth President of the Society, was born at New Ipswich, N. H., October 2, 1765. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1791; in 1809 was called to the chair of languages at Dartmouth College, and became professor of

mathematics and natural philosophy, and for years was acting president of the college. He was elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the seventh annual meeting held at Dover, September 16, 1818, and served the Society for twenty-three years. He died at Hanover, N. H., August 15, 1841.

Hon. David Adams, the fifth President of the Society, was born in Townsend, Mass., September 9, 1773; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1797. His "Scholars' Arithmetic" was in general use for many years. He was state senator in 1839 and 1840, and was elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the thirtieth annual meeting held in Francestown, August 25, 1841, an office which he held for nineteen years. He died at Keene, N. H., June 8, 1864.

Hon. Edward Spalding, M.D., the sixth President of the Society, was born in Amherst, N. H., September 15, 1813; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1833 and became a practicing physician in Nashua in 1837; was elected a trustee of Dartmouth College in 1866; was a member of the First Congregational Church in Nashua; was elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the forty-ninth annual meeting held in Claremont, August 29, 1860, and remained in office to the time of his death, June 22, 1895. See for a further sketch page 44.

Hon. Isaac W. Smith, LL.D., the seventh President of the Society, was born in Hampstead, N. H., May 18, 1825; was educated at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., and at Dartmouth College; graduated from the college in 1846; and was admitted to the bar in 1850. He represented his ward in the legislature in 1859 and was chairman of the Judiciary Committee; was elected to the Senate in 1862 and 1863, where he was also chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In 1863 he was appointed by President Lincoln assessor of the second revenue district of New Hampshire and held the office until 1870. He was twice appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court, and after a service of twenty years, having reached the age limit, retired and again entered upon the practice of his profession. In 1885, Judge Smith was elected one of the Trustees of Dartmouth College, and held that position until his death. He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from

the College in 1889. He was a member of the Franklin Street Church at Manchester for more than forty years. He was elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the eighty-fifth annual meeting held in Concord, July 8, 1896, and remained in office to the time of his death, November 28, 1898.

Hon. David Cross, LL.D., the eighth President of the Society, was born in Weare, N. H., July 5, 1817; graduated from Dartmouth College in 1841, which conferred upon him the degree of LL.D., in 1891. He began the practice of law in Manchester about 1844; was Judge of Probate for the County of Hillsborough from 1856 to 1874; was United States Pension Agent from 1865 to 1872. For more than sixty-five years he has followed his profession as a lawyer. He is a member of the Franklin Street Congregational Church in Manchester, and was elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the eighty-eighth annual meeting held in Concord June 19, 1899, and still remains in office.

Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, D.D., was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., December 19, 1832; graduated from Dartmouth College in 1856, and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1859; was ordained pastor of the First Congregational Church, Milford, N. H., May 1, 1861; became pastor of the First Congregational Church, Concord, N. H., September 12, 1867, and after thirty years of service was made Pastor Emeritus.

Dr. Ayer was secretary of the General Association of New Hampshire from 1871 until 1880. In 1881 he was elected a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; was elected a Director of the New Hampshire Bible Society in 1875, and Secretary at the annual meeting held June 19, 1878, and resigned the office June 13, 1898, since which time he has been living in Philadelphia.

Hon. John Kimball was born in Canterbury, N. H., April 13, 1821; was Collector of United States Internal Revenue 1862–69 under the appointment of President Lincoln; was Mayor of the City of Concord 1872–76; was President of the New Hampshire Senate in 1881; is President of the Merrimack County Savings Bank, and Director of the Mechanics National Bank, Concord;

was elected Treasurer of the New Hampshire Bible Society at the annual meeting held June 6, 1871, and still continues in office.

Rev. Alfred Langdon Elwyn, a great-grandson of Gov. John Langdon, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., December 24, 1832. His father was Alfred Langdon Elwyn, M.D., a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn. His mother was granddaughter of Major Pierce Butler, of South Carolina, who was a delegate to the convention which adopted the Constitution of the United States. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1852; studied for the ministry at the Protestant Episcopal Seminary in Virginia; was ordained July 6, 1856. He is a resident of Portsmouth, N. H., a life member of the New Hampshire Bible Society, and has served on the Board of Directors since 1897. His daughter, Mrs. Woodbury Langdon of Portsmouth, is also a life member of this Society.

Rev. Osman C. Baker, D.D., was born in Marlow, N. H., July 30, 1812. He took preparatory studies at Wilbraham (Mass.) Academy and Wesleyan College, Middletown, Conn.; was admitted on trial to the New Hampshire Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1838; was ordained an elder by Bishop Soule, at Dover in 1841; was Presiding Elder, Dover District, in 1846; Professor of the General Biblical Institute at Concord, N. H., 1847-49; and President, 1849-52; was elected Bishop in 1852; received the Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Wesleyan University and Dickinson College in 1852; was elected a Director of the New Hampshire Bible Society in 1852, a Vice-President in 1855, and served to the time of his death in Concord, December 20, 1871.

Rev. Ebenezer E. Cummings, D.D., was born in Claremont, N. H., November 9, 1800; graduated at Colby University in 1828, and was ordained into the Baptist ministry and settled over the Church at Salisbury, N. H., the same year. He was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Concord, N. H., 1832-50, and of the Pleasant Street Baptist Church, 1854-68; was President of Colby Academy, and Trustee of Colby University; received the Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Dartmouth College in 1855; was elected Vice-President of the New Hampshire Bible Society in

1866 and served for fourteen years. He died in Concord, N. H., February 22, 1886.

Rev. Elisha Adams, D.D., was born in Williamstown, Vt., July 29, 1815; was educated at Newbury Seminary and Norwich University; was ordained an Elder by Bishop Roberts, and joined the Vermont Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1840. During eleven years of his ministry as presiding elder, he filled all the districts in the New Hampshire Conference. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Shaw University in 1874, was elected a Director of the New Hampshire Bible Society in 1858, and a Vice-President in 1878, and served to the time of his death in Concord, N. H., August 15, 1880.

THE PRINTING OF THE SCRIPTURES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

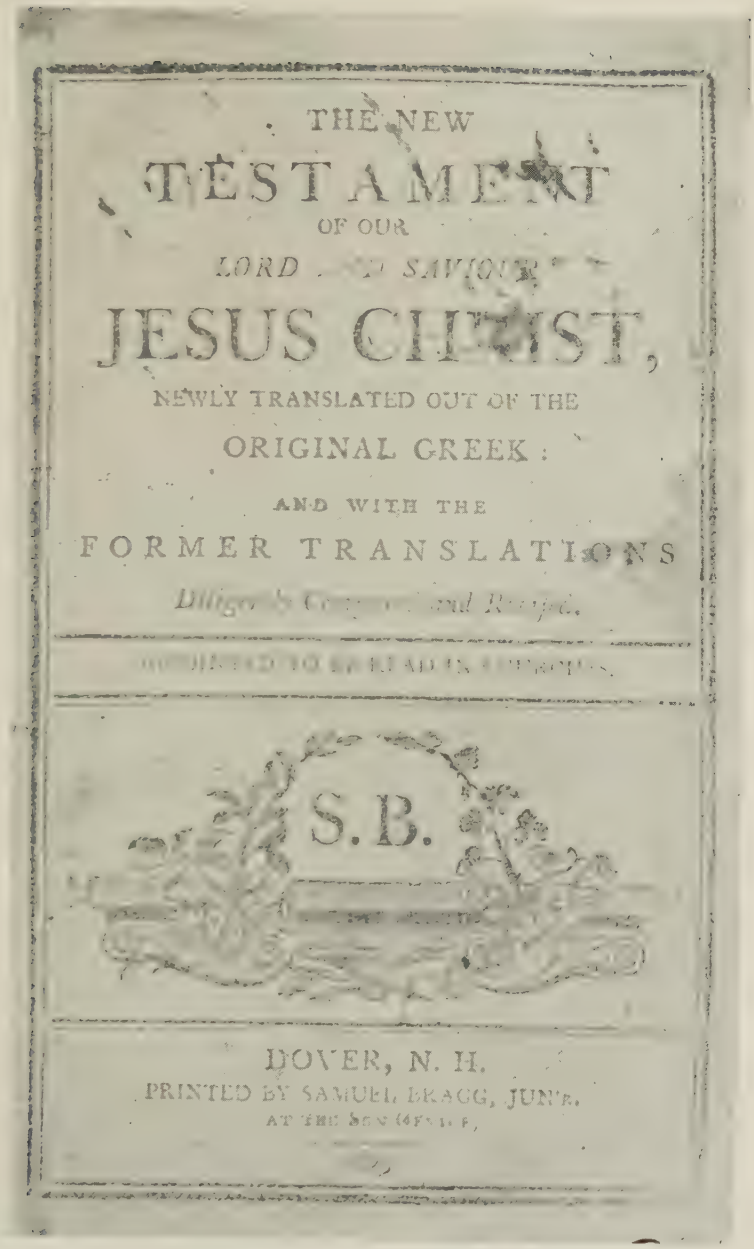
In 1795 William Stearns of Exeter, printed and partially bound an edition of two thousand copies of the New Testament, probably the first ever printed in New Hampshire. Nearly the whole edition was unfortunately destroyed by fire in the printing office.

The second edition of the New Testament was printed by Samuel Bragg, Jr., of Dover, during the year 1803, and the third edition by J. & W. R. Hill at Concord, in 1814.

During 1815 there were two editions of the New Testament printed; one by Simeon Ide, of New Ipswich, one thousand copies of which were purchased by the New Hampshire Bible Society, and four thousand copies sold to the American Tract Society; the other by George Hough, of Concord, of which edition five hundred copies were purchased by the Society.

The first edition of the Bible issued in New Hampshire was by Isaac Long, of Hopkinton, during 1813, six hundred copies of which were purchased by the Bible Society.

The second edition was called a Hieroglyphical Bible, and was printed by Salmon Wilder, of Jaffrey, in 1814. From 1815 to 1865 there were twenty-seven editions of the Bible containing the Old and New Testaments, and forty-nine editions of the New Testament issued from the presses of New Hampshire, as follows:



Courtesy of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

FULL SIZE TITLE PAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.
Printed by Samuel Bragg, Jr., Dover, N. H., 1803.

Editions of the Bible.

Anson Whipple, of Walpole, printed an edition of eight thousand copies of the Bible in 1815.

"About 1810, Cheever Felch, afterward a chaplain in the U. S. Navy, commenced setting the type. He however, prosecuted the work no farther than to the close of the 26th Chapter of Deuteronomy, when it was suspended till about the year 1813. The composition was then recommenced by Charles Kendall, who, in about 18 months completed the work, except the Apocrypha, which was set up by a man named Brown."[1] The title page reads: "Printed at Walpole, N. H., by A. Whipple & Co. from a press owned by J. Thomas."

An edition of the Bible in two volumes with notes by Thomas Scott, was printed at Exeter in 1830, by C. Norris, Printer. Hoag and Atwood, of Concord, printed an edition of the Bible in 1831, Moses Atwood, of Concord, an edition in 1832, and one edition each by Luther Roby, and the Coffin, Roby and Hoag Company, of Concord, in 1833.

During 1836 there were six editions printed as follows: One edition by Charles Lane, of Sanbornton, two editions by Henry Wallis and Luther Roby, and one edition each by Charles Hoag, C. & A. Hoag, and Roby, Kimball, and Merrill, all of Concord. The title page of the edition issued by Roby, Kimball and Merrill reads, "The English Version of the Polyglott Bible, containing the Old and New Testament; with marginal readings; together with a copious and original selection of references to parallel and illustrative passages, exhibited in a manner hitherto unattempted." Charles Lane, of Sanbornton, printed a second edition of the Bible during 1837, and an edition was printed by John F. Brown, of Concord, in 1839. J. & J. W. Prentiss, of Keene, issued an edition in 1840.

Newell A. Foster, and Stearns, Morrill and Silsby, of Concord, and Charles Lane of Meredith Bridge (Laconia), printed editions in 1841; Charles H. Stearns of Concord, an edition in 1843, and Luther Roby, of Concord, two editions, one in 1844 and the other in 1850. Peabody and Daniell of Franklin, printed an edition in 1845.

The Claremont Manufacturing Company, of Claremont, Sim-

[1] O'Callagan's Catalogue of American Bibles.

con Ide, Agent, printed separate editions of the Bible in 1837, 1838, 1846, 1861, and 1865. These were printed in types from pearl to pica for home use, and for use in the pulpit.

Editions of the New Testament Issued From the Presses of New Hampshire from 1818 to 1865.

S. A. Morrison & Co., of Keene, printed an edition in 1818, Isaac Long, of Hopkinton, an edition in 1819, John I. Williams, of Exeter, an edition in 1820, and Luther Roby, of Amherst, an edition in 1822.

Luther Roby printed an edition in Concord during 1823, and John W. Shepard, of Concord, issued an edition in 1823 and a second edition in 1824.

John W. Putnam, of Concord, printed an edition in 1827, Luther Roby an edition in 1828, and Horatio Hill & Company, of Concord, two editions, one in 1828 and the other in 1830, and an edition was printed by James Derby, of Exeter, in 1831.

Samuel Coffin, Davis, Coffin, Roby, Hoag & Company, Henry Wallis and Luther Roby, and Horatio Hill & Company, all of Concord, severally printed editions in 1833.

Merrill, Kimball and Roby, Henry Wallis and Luther Roby, and Luther Roby, C. & A. Hoag, all of Concord, each printed an edition during 1834.

John F. Brown, Henry Wallis and Luther Roby, of Concord, printed one edition each, and Oliver L. Sanborn, of Concord, two editions during 1836.

Rufus Merrill, Luther Roby, Samuel A. Kimball, and Henry Wallis and Luther Roby, all of Concord, printed editions, four in number, during 1838.

J. and J. W. Prentiss, of Keene, issued an edition during 1838 and another in 1839. John F. Brown, of Concord, an edition in 1839, and Luther Roby, and Roby, Kimball and Merrill, of Concord, printed separate editions during 1839, and Luther Roby editions during 1840, 1842, 1843, and 1844, Charles H. Lane, an edition in 1841, and Peabody and Daniell, of Franklin, an edition in 1842.

Edson C. Eastman, of Concord, issued an edition during 1860.

The Claremont Manufacturing Company printed editions dur-

THE

NEW TESTAMENT

OF

OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR

JESUS CHRIST:

Translated out of
THE ORIGINAL GREEK;
AND
WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY
COMPARED AND REVISED.

Carefully examined and corrected, by the Rev. S. PAYSON, D. D.

NEW-IPSWICH, N. H.
PRINTED, PUBLISHED, AND SOLD, BY SIMEON IDE.
1815

By the courtesy of Hon. Ezra A. Stearns.

FULL SIZE TITLE PAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.
Printed by Simeon Ide, New Ipswich, N. H., 1815.

ing 1837, 1846, 1860, 1861 and 1865. The edition of 1846 had references and marginal readings. During the Civil War the soldiers leaving Claremont were furnished with copies of the New Testament by the Claremont Manufacturing Company. An edition of the Psalms was printed by D. V. Moulton, of Sanbornton, in 1831, making twenty-nine editions of the Bible and forty-nine editions of the New Testament issued in New Hampshire prior to 1865.

Sets of stereotyped plates were owned by several of the publishers in the state. John I. Williams and James Derby, of Exeter, and Stearns, Morrill and Silsby, and Henry Wallis, of Concord, were manufacturers of sterotype plates. Four sets of plates seem to have been owned in Concord. A power press was set up in the building at No. 256 North Main Street about 1830. The power for the running of the press was the old fashioned horse sweep in the cellar of the building, where the horse walked around a circle. About twenty editions of the Scriptures were issued from this office. A number of the editions of family Bibles and Bibles for pulpit use, and part of the editions of the New Testament were type set. Many of the editions were bought by the State Society for use in canvass work and to supply the demands of the County and Town Societies, and for local depositories.

From 1812 to 1817 the Scriptures used by the State Society were largely printed in the state, and the printing of the Scriptures was then considered one of the local industries of the state. From 1817 to 1844 about one half of the Scriptures used in the state work were bought of the American Bible Society, and of publishers outside of the state. At the annual meeting of 1844 the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the State Society:

"That Bibles and Testaments be procured of the American Bible Society only, excepting a small Reference Bible published in Springfield, Mass., and that the expediency of publishing a similar edition be respectfully suggested by this Board to the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society."

This action of the Society seems in a great measure to have stopped the publishing of the Scriptures in the state.

The last edition of the Scriptures printed in New Hampshire seems to have been the work of the Claremont Manufacturing

Company, Simeon Ide, agent, during 1865, copies of which were for sale at the Depository of the Bible Society in Concord as late as 1892.

Copies of the above mentioned editions of the Bible and New Testament, except the New Testament of 1795, and the edition of the Bible issued by Isaac Long of Hopkinton, during 1813, are to be found in the libraries of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York, and have been examined by the writer.

It is said that following the burning of the first edition of the New Testament printed by William Stearns, of Exeter, in 1795, by a fire in the office, a second edition was immediately printed, and that another edition was printed in the same office during 1820. Also that two or more editions of the Scriptures were printed in Portsmouth earlier than 1840. Search has been made, but no copies have been found, although people now living can recall that copies were in the homes of Rockingham County as late as 1852. The history of Sanbornton says that "several editions of the New Testament were printed in Sanbornton early in the (nineteenth) century," but no copies have been found. Other town histories mention the printing of books but do not mention the printing of the Scriptures. One edition of the Bible, in five volumes, with notes by Thomas Scott, printed in 1823 with a Portsmouth, N. H. imprint, without the name of the publisher, has been found, and one edition of the Bible and four editions of the New Testament with a Concord, N. H. imprint, but without the name of the publisher or date of publication, are not included in the above mentioned editions.

Book binding was also one of the early industries of the state, and many editions of the Scriptures printed in Massachusetts and Connecticut were bound in New Hampshire and returned to the publishers for use elsewhere. One edition of four hundred and fifty copies sent from Hartford, Conn., was bought by the Bible Society in 1813, and no edition of the Bible or New Testament has been found which was printed since 1865.

Photographed by E. J. Aiken.

MONUMENT ERECTED IN MEMORY OF REV. THOMAS CHARLES.

At Bala, North Wales, 1875.

THE STORY OF MARY JONES AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

In 1796 a society in London, organized in 1698 for the promotion of Christian knowledge, printed an edition of ten thousand copies of the Welsh Bible. The demand was so great that the edition was soon exhausted and the people of Wales begged for more.

During this year, 1796, there was a religious awakening in the town of Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, and among the converts was Mary Jones, a little girl of about ten years of age. Her first desire seemed to be for a copy of the Bible in the Welsh tongue. The edition of ten thousand copies had been sold, but there was a copy in the town two miles distant from her home, and she was permitted to read from it for an hour every Saturday afternoon. Six years passed during which she earned and laid by every penny she could. The time came when she had money enough to buy a Bible. She had learned that in the town of Bala, twenty-five miles away, in the home of Rev. Thomas Charles, there was a copy for sale. She started early one morning, her shoes in one hand, as she could not afford to wear them, and her purse in the other—if you have ever seen the mountains of Wales you can understand something of the undertaking of this girl—and reached the home of Mr. Charles at eventide only to find the Bible had been sold and delivered. She burst into tears at the thought that the prayers, the waiting and working, the savings of six long years, the weary tramp with bare feet were all in vain. Her sobs broke the silence, and appealed to Mr. Charles' heart with a pathos which he was wholly unable to resist. He gave her a Bible kept for another, and said "From this day I can never rest until I find out some means to supply the pressing wants of my country that cry out for the Word of God."

That winter he visited London full of his one great thought and purpose, and at the meeting of the Religious Tract Society he spoke most feelingly and eloquently about Wales and told the story of the little girl's disappointment, and asked, Cannot there be a society for furnishing the Bible for Wales? The appeal was not without its effect. It awakened a thrill of sympathy for a people that so longed and thirsted for the word of

God, and one of the Secretaries, the Rev. Joseph Hughes, rose, and exclaimed enthusiastically, "Mr. Charles, surely a society might be formed for the purpose, and if for Wales, why not for the whole World?"

This noble Christian sentiment moved the hearts of many and two years later, on the seventh day of March, 1804, the British and Foreign Bible Society was organized, and in the formation of this Society all denominations met and were thus brought into sympathy by a common cause, with an earnest desire to serve their common Master. The story of Mary Jones is among the publications of the British and Foreign Bible Society and her Bible is sacredly preserved among its treasures.

During the first fifty years of the society's existence, it issued each year on an average 559,000 copies of the Scriptures, complete or in parts. During the closing six years of the first century the average was 5,190,000 copies. The issue for 1910 was 6,975,886 copies. At the end of the first fifty years the Society sent out on an average one volume in twenty-three seconds; at the end of one hundred years, one volume in every five seconds; during 1910 one volume in about every three and one-half seconds. The total issues of the Society to 1912 exceed 229,000,000 copies of the Scriptures.

A STORY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Like Rev. Thomas Charles, of Bala, Wales, was Rev. Samuel J. Mills, "the hero of the haystack," whose zeal for foreign missions led to the formation of the American Board, who was also a pioneer in home missions, and whose work is mentioned in the annual reports of this Society for 1814–15. It was through his personal efforts that Bible Societies were organized throughout the West and Southwest of our country during the opening years of the nineteenth century. Largely inspired by the reports of this work, Hon. Elias Boudinot, president of the Bible Society of New Jersey, in 1815 proposed the formation of a National Bible Society in the United States, and thirty-five local Bible societies united in the formation of the American Bible Society, May 8, 1816, and eighty-five other Bible societies became auxiliary to it during the first year of it existence.

The New Hampshire Bible Society though not represented at

Colporteur Band Sent Out by a Chinese Christian.

American Bible Society work in China.

the meeting for its organization, at the annual meeting held September 18, 1816, voted "That as the state of our resources may from time to time permit, we will pour of our gold and of our silver into this treasury of the Lord; and that we shall rejoice to be enrolled among the number of those Societies who may annually contribute in aid of that noble institution."

The best story of the American Bible Society is a statement of its work. The society has its foreign agencies and colporteurs at work in China, Korea, Japan, Siam, the Turkish Empire, and Egypt, and with the missions of Egyptian Soudan, East and West Africa, Persia, Arabia and India, the islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, including the Philippine Islands and Micronesia. The society works through correspondents in Norway, Sweden, Russia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

In South America it has its agencies and workers in every country from Venezuela to Patagonia, throughout Central America and a part of the West Indies, including Cuba and Porto Rico. Mexico has its agency and workers. Its domestic agencies covering our home land are nine in number, as follows: The Eastern, the Atlantic, the South Atlantic, the Central, the Western, the North-western, the South-western, and the Pacific, with a special agency working among the colored people of the South. The Society has twenty-one established agencies and employs one thousand and twenty-five colporteurs, Bible women and other distributers. The Scriptures are issued from the Bible House in New York in eighty languages other than English, and in many other languages abroad.

The auxiliaries and other local Bible Societies and the Missionary Societies of every denomination, at home and in foreign lands, have been and are today deeply indebted to the American Bible Society for their supply of the Scriptures, so necessary for their work, and for the work of their colporteurs in every mission field, for the Bible colporteur is in every land the van-guard of Christ's advancing host.

The Rev. Henry H. Jessup, D.D., for more than fifty years a missionary in Syria, said, "The Bible Society is the plow-share of missions."

A native Fiji Islander, attending the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, June, 1910, said that "during his remem-

brance a young woman or a girl could be bought upon the islands for a life of slavery or of shame for an English guinea, but with the coming of the Bible such a thing was made impossible with all the wealth of the Bank of England," and a resident missionary in Korea writes, "Nine-tenths of our success are the results of Bible Society work."

No other interdenominational society in our country has a stronger claim upon the benevolence of the churches of every denomination, and stands in greater need of their gifts than the American Bible Society of New York.

The story of a year's work may be given by the figures which show the issues of the Society, for the year ending March 31, 1911, amount to 3,231,722 volumes. This total comprises 393,-230 Bibles, 635,137 Testaments, and 2,203,355 Gospels, Psalters, and other portions. That is 10,500 copies for each and every working day during the year. The total issues of the society in ninety-five years amount to 90,527,904 volumes.

During 1804 a society was organized in New York City to purchase Bibles and lend them for a limited time, not to exceed one month.

THE ORGANIZATION OF OTHER BIBLE SOCIETIES.

The Naval and Military Bible Society, of London, during 1780.

The Hibernian Bible Society, during 1806.

Swedish Evangelical Bible Society, during 1808.

The Edinburgh Bible Society, during 1809. This society later became the National Bible Society of Scotland.

The Finnish Bible Society, during 1812.

The Russian Bible Society, December, 1812. This society was organized at St. Petersburg and received the approval of Czar Alexander I, as the Army of Napoleon was retreating from Moscow.

The Netherlands Bible Society, during 1815.

The Protestant Bible Society of France, during 1818.

The National Bible Society of Scotland, during 1861.

The Philadelphia Bible Society, now the Pennsylvania, was organized December 11, 1808, and was the first to be organized in the United States.

MOUNTAINEER GIRLS OF SIAM.

American Bible Society work in Siam.

The New York Bible Society was organized December 4, and the New Jersey Bible Society, during December, 1809.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND BIBLE SOCIETIES.

Connecticut Bible Society, May 11, 1809.
Massachusetts Bible Society, July 6, 1809.
The Bible Society of Maine, August 30, 1809.
The New Hampshire Bible Society, June 3, 1812.
Vermont Bible Society, September 10, 1812.
Rhode Island Bible Society, August 10, 1813.

The circulation of the Scriptures as reported by three of the National Societies for 1911 is as follows:

The British and Foreign Bible Society, 6,975,886 copies.
The American Bible Society, 3,231,722 copies.
The National Society, of Scotland, 2,562,346 copies.

To the issues of the British and Foreign, the American Bible Society, and National Bible Society of Scotland, add the annual reported issues from two societies in France, twelve in Germany, one in Holland, three in Russia, four in Scandinavia, and one in Switzerland, with the publication of several Bible societies not reported, and the estimated issue from the many publishing houses, such as the Oxford, Nelson, Bagster, Cambridge, International, and Holm, and it is safe to say that not far from twenty million copies of the Scriptures, including the entire Bible and portions thereof, are printed and circulated each year, that is, a number in excess of sixty thousand copies for each and every working day during the year.

Three thousand six hundred colporteurs and Bible women in all lands are connected with the three great Bible Societies. State and local organizations employ many others. Foreign missions of the different denominations depend almost wholly upon these Societies for the Scriptures used in their work, and many of their missionaries, especially the native Christians, are also practically Bible colporteurs.

Translations of the Scriptures.

The British and Foreign Bible Society alone issues the complete Bible in 105 languages and dialects, and some portions of the Scriptures in 418. The Scriptures in whole or in part are published in 526 languages and dialects. Of these translations, 17 were made in Europe, 509 in England and America.

Facts About the Bible.

The first book printed from movable metal types was the Latin Bible in the year 1455.

The first Bible printed in this country was in the Natick Indian language in 1663 by John Eliot.

The first English Bible printed in this country was in 1752, with great privacy by Kneeland & Green in Boston. It was printed for Daniel Henchman, and had the London imprint on the title-page, to avoid detection by the officers of the crown. It was an unlawful enterprise, as Great Britain did not allow the Bible to be printed either at home or in the colonies, except by royal license. The edition was about eight hundred copies.

Some parts of the Bible in about thirty (30) different languages now exist in embossed type for the blind.

DATE DUE

BV 2370 .N4 A4 1912

Aiken, Edwin J

The first hundred years of the New Hampshire Bible

DEMCO

UNITED THEOLOGICAL

United Theological Seminary Library
MAIN BV2370.N4 A4 1912
Aiken, Edwin The first hundred years of
3 0645 0004 6791 6